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THE GUARDIAN

Printed in London and Manchester

Friday March 22 1985 25p

Statesman
The weekly for people with
minds of their own.
Every Friday, 80p.

Israelis raid villages as TV men die

From Julie Flint
in Beirut
THE Israeli army mounted
yet another raid on Shiite
Muslim villages in South
Lebanon yesterday, killing at
least 20 Lebanese, while in a
separate incident, an Israeli
jet shot down a group of four
whirlwinds, killing two Lebanese
staff of the American CBS
television network.

Yesterday's Israeli opera-
tion deepened the mood of
bitter pessimism that has
gripped Lebanon since
Christian hardliners
rebelled against the govern-
ment and plunged the Sidon
area into heavy fighting.

Beirut Radio said that the
Israelis stormed nine villages
in the area, killing 20 people
after pouring hundreds of
paratroopers and scores of

Back to the bad old days,
page 6

tanks into a two-pronged
dawn advance. The Israeli
command said its forces
stormed only two villages,
near the town of Nabatieh,
where it said 20 "terrorists"
were shot dead.

According to the Israeli
version, shots were fired at
Israeli troops, slightly
wounding one soldier. The
Israelis returned fire.

A French journalist, Ma-
rine Jacquemin, witnessed
the tank attack on the CBS
journalists. She said the tank
fired two shells at them
from 500 yards. The first
killed the CBS crew, and
the second wounded her.

The two dead were named
as cameraman Tewfik
Ghazawi and soundman Rami
Mekki. The driver, Ayman
Hassan, lost both legs. Miss
Jacquemin's driver was hit
in the back by a bullet and
several villagers, with whom
she was also working, were
also wounded, including a
small girl.

Miss Jacquemin said Israeli
troops earlier fired
automatic weapons at a
UPITN television crew
nearby, wounding a Lebanese
employee.

The attacks took place out-
side Kfar Mikil village, nine
miles south-east of Sidon,
during the Israeli raids on
the Shiite villages.

She said she was two
yards from the CBS crew
when a shell hit them. "The
cameraman took the shell
between his legs and he ex-
ploded," she said. Miss
Jacquemin said she believed
the Israeli tank crew could
see clearly that the group
were journalists.

"It was incredible. They
saw me and I have long,
blonde hair, I couldn't have
been Lebanese. They saw we
were journalists. We were
filming and interviewing
and they shot at us
deliberately."

She said the UPITN crew
had joined the group after
their car had been badly
shot up by Israeli automatic
fire, which wrecked the
camera. "We are only alive
because we were beside our
car, which took the blast,"
she said.

"We went inside a house
and everyone was crying,
and a little girl was injured
in the head and I took care
of her," Miss Jacquemin
said. "Then they shelled us
again."

The shock of the Israeli
assault was not offset by a
relative calm in the
Sidon area since the Chris-
tian Lebanese forces militia
and Lebanese army troops
which broke out on Monday.

Despite an agreement for
militiamen to withdraw and
for the army to reassert its
rule, most observers expect
the fighting to continue.

The first, small-scale
clashes have already been
seen in the Khatia area north
of Sidon, threatening a two-
month-old ceasefire between
Druze and Christian fighters.
In Beirut, Wednesday eve-
ning brought the first heavy
fighting in months along one
of the most sensitive seg-
ments of the Green Line di-
viding the east and west of
the city.

Witnesses claim 'more than 40' people killed' during funeral procession on anniversary of Sharpeville massacre

S. Africa police gun down blacks

From Patrick Laurence and
agencies in Johannesburg

South African police shot
dead 17 blacks yesterday, on
the 25th anniversary of the
Sharpeville massacre, official
reports said. Witnesses put
the death toll at over 40.

The latest killings took place
in the black township of Langa
near the town of Uitenhage in
the Eastern Cape. Police opened
fire on mourners marching to
a nearby township to attend
the funeral of a recent victim of
the violence.

Wildly conflicting accounts
of the clash emerged last
night. The government claimed
that police had opened fire in
self-defence, after warnings
had been given.

But survivors claimed that
there was no provocation and
no warning.

The government also an-

ounced yesterday that police
had killed two black guerrillas
in a shoot-out in the Eastern
Transvaal on Tuesday and
had captured a third. One
police officer was injured.

There were isolated clashes
with police in other parts of
the country, particularly in the
Vaal triangle which has been
the focal point of the unrest
which began last September.

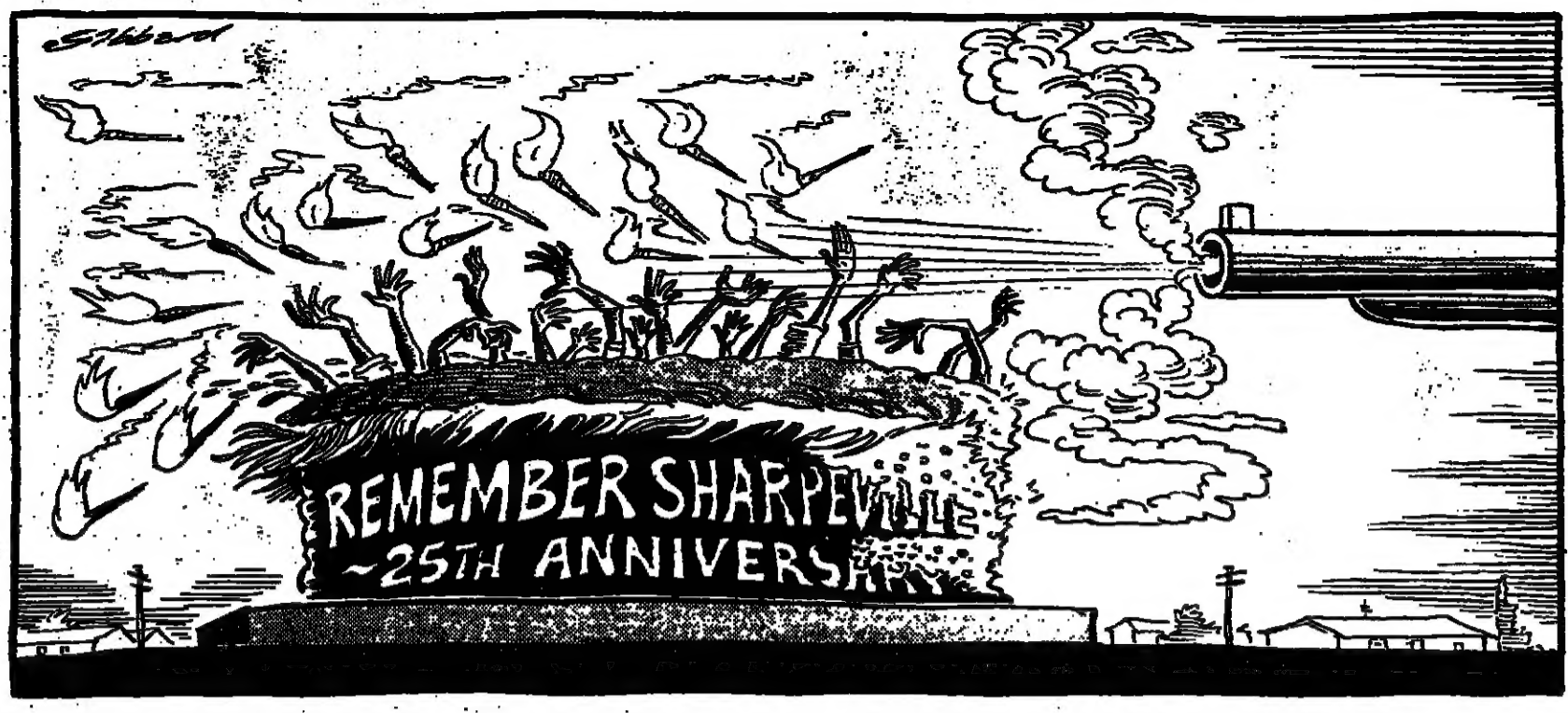
Meetings commemorating
Sharpeville were held in
several black townships. In
Johannesburg, police in 1980
in the townships of Soweto
and Bantustan shot and
killed 29 people.

Two helicopters had
opened fire on the funeral
procession, which had
gathered in the town of
Uitenhage. The helicopters
had fired 10 rounds of
ammunition, which had
killed 17 people.

The minister said that police
had fired six bullets from 82-
rifle, 27 shotgun cartridges
and 10 pistol shots. He said
11 blacks died on the spot and
six more in hospital.

The Port Elizabeth Evening
Post quoted a witness, a butch-
er's employee, Miriam Ndindi,
as saying: "We were in the
doorway of the butchery and
saw people lying in the street."

Turn to back page, col. 4



NEWS IN BRIEF

Ulster talks

SIR Geoffrey Howe, the
Foreign Secretary, and Mr
Douglas Hurd, the Northern
Ireland Secretary, are to have
talks in Dublin today with Dr
Garret Fitzgerald, the Irish
Prime Minister, in a further
attempt to resolve the Ulster
problem.

Nazi spurned

THE Nazi war criminal
Pieter Menten, due to be
released from prison in Hol-
land, will not be allowed to
return to Ireland. Back page.

Clean cars

CARS running on batteries
will be used to transport
disabled people in the
London Underground. Back
page.



"I remember you from 40,
Bryan. If I weren't on strike
I'd be helping you. This
morning, I think we ought to
go through this again: one
loaf of bread 50p, kitchen
tins 60p, two tins of tuna
fish at 34p each."

Aids blame

INTERNATIONAL blood
traders are blamed today for
starting the Aids epidemic.
Page 2

Jaguar profit

JAGUAR Cars, which was
privatised last year, has in-
creased profits by 83 per
cent to £91.5 million. Page
24

Money problems

AFTER the overwhelming
public response to the Afri-
can famine aid agencies are
under new strains. Third
World Review, page 9

The weather

COLD with some showers.
Details back page

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE
Austria 26-28 °C
Belgium 20-22 °C
Denmark 18-20 °C
France 20-22 °C
Germany 20-22 °C
Italy 20-22 °C
Netherlands 20-22 °C
Portugal 20-22 °C
Spain 20-22 °C
Sweden 20-22 °C
Switzerland 20-22 °C
UK 20-22 °C

Pound takes off as dollar drops

From Alex Brammer
in Washington
and Peter Rodgers
in London

The pound yesterday soared
almost 4 cents to \$1.1870 as an
unexpected slowing in the
American economy and a surge
in inflation sent the dollar
into a tailspin.

Sterling was also strong in
its own right, rising sharply
against key European currencies
such as the German mark,
which the market put into
the still high level of British
interest rates and the austerity
of the budget on Tuesday.

At one point sterling
touched \$1.19, back to the mid-
December level against the
dollar, which has already been
shaken this week by a banking
crisis in Ohio. Sterling is over
10 cents higher than a week
ago.

This gave the City con-
fidence that in spite of the Gov-
ernment's decision to hold the
fall in base rates to 0.5 per
cent, the next week or two
might see the Chancellor's

claim that the mortgage rise
announced by the building so-
cieties could be temporary.

However, the Chancellor has
made it clear that he is being
very cautious and it is thought
that he will want to see that
yesterday's boom conditions for
sterling are sustainable, espe-
cially as the oil markets are
likely to weaken next month.

Financial Notebook, page 24;
Markets, page 27

The pound's average value
on the sterling index rose by
what is thought to be a record
for a single day, up 2.4 per
cent to 78.4 per cent of its
1975 value on the Bank of
England basket of currencies.

It has not been as high since
last November, and against the
German mark since October.
The pound ended 6.5 pence
higher at DM 3.8103.

According to the US Com-
merce Department's so-called
"beige" forecast of the Gross
National Product, the Ameri-
can economy grew by 2.1 per

cent in the first three months
of the year, less than half the
4.3 per cent growth in the
final quarter of 1984 and well
below market expectations.

The department's sensitive
measure of inflation shot up to
a 5.4 per cent annual rate in
the first three months of
the year, almost twice the rate
of last year.

This combination of slower
growth and the potential for a
rising spiral of prices was dis-
couraging to foreign investors
who have been pouring money
into the United States because
of its booming growth and
good inflation record.

Economists blamed the slug-
gish economy on a rising price
war between international trade
position—which stems from
the surge in the dollar earlier
this year.

The Commerce Secretary, Mr
Malcolm Baldrige said: "Bas-
ically the growth in our domes-
tic demand is being increased
by imports."

He argued that the high dol-
lar was to blame for the poorer
performance of America's

economy and the burgeoning
trade deficit which transfers
manufacturing output and
jobs of foreign producers.

This week, the US reported
the largest current account
deficit in its history and ac-
knowledgeed that the US had
become a net debtor country.

The growing concern about
the impact of the dollar on the
US domestic economy was
reflected in a New York Times
interview with the Treasury
Secretary, Mr James Baker.

He talked for the first time
of a need to remodel the
world's currency markets in
order to introduce stability. He
said: "You have a dollar which
at least until recently has been
going out of sight in relation
to other currencies."

Esso raised hopes yesterday
that the weakening of the dol-
lar against the pound might
lead to lower petrol prices. It
said the price of its industrial
fuels oil and diesel by 0.5 a
litre because currency move-
ments combined beneficially
with a drop in the interna-
tional price of some products.

Mortgage rise cancels budget benefits

By Margaret Dibley,
Money Editor

Home buyers yesterday lost
any benefit from the Gov-
ernment's decision to cut the
mortgage rate by 1 per cent
in the mortgage rate.

Most borrowers' rate will be-
come 14 per cent from April 1
— the highest for three years
— and this will add £250 a
month to the cost of a £20,000
mortgage against an income
tax saving for married couples
of £7.50 a month.

The interest rate paid to
savers with building societies
will rise by 0.75 per cent on
all investments making the or-
dinary share accounts 8.5 per

cent and the seven-day ac-
counts 9.5 per cent.

The societies need this rate
rise to stem a disastrous dis-
appearance of money from their
savings accounts.

Last week alone they suf-
fered a net outflow of around
£25 million, some of which
will have been used to buy
pre-Budget pension policies, al-
though most probably went
into high interest bank
accounts.

The Prime Minister said yes-
terday that she regretted the
increase but trusted the build-
ing societies to be the best
judges of the appropriate rate.

Monthly repayments net of
tax are:

Loan	13pc	14pc
£10,000	£85.60	£90.40
£15,000	£128.40	£135.60
£20,000	£171.20	£180.80
£25,000	£214.00	£226.00
£30,000	£256.80	£271.20

Mr Nigel Lawson, the
Chancellor, rejected an opposi-
tion call for greater stability
over mortgage repayments and
indicated that he does not ex-
pect the new rate to last for
long. But Mr Herbert Warner,
the chairman of the Building
Societies Association, firmly

believed the rate would not
come down until there had
been another 1.5 per cent fall
in bank base rates.

Individual societies are free
to choose their own level of
increase and some may add
more than 1 per cent. But last
night's mortgage societies in-
dicated that they will follow the
unanimous recommendation by
the BSA council.

The banks, which charge
from 13.25 per cent for home
loans, have no immediate plans
to alter the rate although they
could follow the building
societies' move despite their
own 0.5 per cent interest rate
cut this week.

Cabinet may soften on wage councils

By Ian Aitken,
Political Editor

A Cabinet compromise seems
likely to resolve the continuing
argument about the future of
wages councils and the pay-
ment of unemployment benefit
to young people who refuse to
take up places in the new-
ly created Youth Training
Scheme.

Both issues were key items
in Tuesday's budget and
Labour MPs believed that Mr
Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor,
was strongly hinting that
Wages Councils would be abol-
ished and the dole would be
withdrawn from unemployed
teenagers.

But the signs last night were
that a deal is being prepared
which will preserve both,
albeit in severely modified
forms.

The issue is central to the
argument about how to price
the unemployed into work,
with particular emphasis on
young people.

Mr Lawson and his col-
leagues are convinced that
relaxing controls on minimum
pay and withdrawing benefits
will sharply increase the stim-
ulus to find work.

But ministers have been sur-
prised to discover that the
Treasury itself believes that
abolishing benefits for young
people who refuse to join the
YTS will cost money rather
than save it. They fear that it
will cost the Exchequer more
to keep reluctant teenagers in
training than to let them stay
at home on the dole.

The Prime Minister told MPs
Turn to back page, col. 1

An unforgettable
portrait of a unique
people.

POLAND

JAMES A. MICHENER

Number one
on The New York Times fiction
bestsellers list for over
four months.

Now available for the first
time in paperback
in the UK.

Siege gunman using pills to stay awake

By Seumas Milne

The escaped murderer under
siege in a van in a west Lon-
don street was yesterday keep-
ing himself awake with amphet-
amines, according to police.

James Baigrie, 39, spent
Wednesday night in his build-
er's van in sub-zero tempera-
tures, dressed in a tracksuit
with only one blanket. He is
thought to be armed with a
saw-off shotgun.

Police believe he has had no
food or drink since the siege
began at about 8am on
Wednesday morning.

But Mr Baigrie, who is 34
and comes from Fife in Scot-
land, yesterday continued talk-
ing to police via a telephone
link-up from inside the van.

He has apparently shaved off
his moustache since he left
prison.

Throughout the day large
numbers of police blocked off
both ends of Philbeach
Gardens in Earl's Court — the
crescent where the siege is go-
ing on. More than 120 officers
were taking part in the opera-
tion at any one time, relieved

by vansloads of police from all
over the metropolitan area.

Residents of Philbeach
Gardens whose homes were in
the line of fire were unable to
use their front doors and had
to climb over garden walls and
enter through back doors.

They were not allowed to use
their front rooms and one
police officer was assigned to
each house during the night.

Police marines from Scot-
land Yard's D11 unit, dressed
in blue berets and bulletproof
vests, surrounded the van in
which Mr Baigrie barricaded
himself on Wednesday morning.

Only a few yards behind the
white Ford Transit builder's
van, a marksman was leaning
out of the side window of a
police van throughout the day,
both hands gripping a .303
revolver.

The marksman were regu-
larly relieved, both because
of the cold weather and the
need to maintain concentra-
tion. A battery of floodlights
was trained on the van.

Turn to back page, col. 4

Head of a formidable theatrical dynasty

By Martin Wainwright

Sir Michael Redgrave, the
distinguished actor and head
of a notable theatrical family,
died yesterday afternoon, one
day after his 77th birthday.

He suffered from Parkin-
son's disease and last month
entered a nursing home at
Denham, Buckinghamshire,
close to the studios where he
made The Damocles and
many other films.

His son, Colin, was paying a
regular visit and was at his
bedside when Sir Michael died.
His daughters Lynn and
Vanessa are living in the
United States, in London to
John, Lady Redgrave, the ac-
tress Rachel Kempson, who has

just finished making a film for
Yorkshire Television.

Sir Michael was born in the
atrical digs in Bristol and
made his stage debut at the
age of two with his father,
John Redgrave, who was billed
at Sadler's Wells as "The Dram-
atic Cock of the North". His
great-grandfather ran a the-
atre ticket agency in Drury
Lane and his great-aunt
Zoe played on the London
stage in England.

Sir Michael's debut ended
with him bursting into un-
scripted tears and his parents
separation caused a further
setback. His stepfather paid
for him to go to public school
and university on condition
that he did not take up acting.

But when he became the
French master at Cranleigh
public school in 1930, he found
it impossible to resist the
stage. His performances in
school plays were noticed by
London critics and their praise
encouraged him to give up his
job and pension and apply at
the Old Vic stage door for a
job in 1934.

Lilian Baylis turned him
down after a Shakespeare audi-
tion with the comment: "I
can't see anything but hands
and we can't pay you for
that." But shortly afterwards
he found a 24-week job with
the Liverpool Repertory, where
he made his name and met his
future wife.

Success followed in 1935

with Sir John Gielgud's com-
pany at the Old Vic and Sir
Michael began a quarter of a
century of leading roles on the
London stage and the cinema
screen.

His career was severely dis-
rupted when Parkinson's Dis-
ease was diagnosed 12 years
ago, but he continued to act
and produced an autobiog-
raphy, In My Mind's Eye, in
1983.

He dabbled in leftwing poli-
tics during the war, but de-
clined an invitation to stand
for Parliament in 1941 and in
later years declared himself
a conservative with a small
c.

Michael Kilvington, page 10

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PERSONAL	31

Print union fined £500 for contempt

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

The National Graphical Association was fined £500 for contempt yesterday by a judge who said that the union had failed to obey a court order to withdraw its instructions to its members to refuse to work on the production of a newspaper.

Mr Justice Peter Pain in the Birmingham High Court found that the union had failed to obey a court order to withdraw its instructions to its members to refuse to work on the production of a newspaper.

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The spread of Aids blamed on blood trade

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

THE international blood trade is today blamed for spreading the Aids epidemic. Blood plasma bought from poor Africans in areas where the Aids virus is endemic, processed, given to people with no natural resistance to the disease, according to a leading blood specialist, Dr Peter Jones.

A leading source of plasma was Kinshasa, capital of Zaire, now the centre of an Aids epidemic. He says that other supplies came from large plasma centres in Haiti, where the first cases of Aids were diagnosed.

The diseases long incubation period and the promiscuity of the people exposed to the virus, with no natural protection, resulted in the epidemic, says Dr Jones, director of the haemophilia centre at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Dr Jones's claim about Aids, published in the British Medical Journal today, exposes what appears to be an international scandal. If he is right, health authorities here and in the US should have known years ago that firms were selling potentially contaminated blood products.

Dr Jones exposed the Third World trade in blood plasma in a BMJ report in 1980. British scientists discovered the African connection with Aids more than five months ago, and the Guardian disclosed reports of

epidemics in Zaire and Rwanda last October. Firms importing blood products from the US have to declare the country of origin of the plasma from which the products are made on contracts held by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Dr Jones says in the BMJ: "The position is so serious that it is incumbent upon the companies concerned, and those government agencies with knowledge of plasma sources since the early 1970s, to mark this information as 'public'." They should also consider putting the country of origin on products' labels, he says.

The leading importers of blood products from the US are Travenol Laboratories (a Becton Dickinson subsidiary) and Cutter (owned by the German company Bayer).

Products imported are albumin for burns victims, Factor 8 (the clotting agent

for haemophiliacs), and gamma globulin (given to people suffering from immune deficiency states, especially Aids).

The plasma trade boomed in the seventies. Before the outbreak of Aids, the plasma they used a process called plasma-phoresis, in which donors are attached to machines which separate the plasma and return the red cells to the body. People can thus sell their blood twice a week instead of once every few months.

Plasmapheresis centres in the US are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. "But in the seventies," says Dr Jones, "several if not all, companies were reliant on plasma-phoresis in countries outside the United States in order to collect plasma for manufacturing purposes."

Plasma is or has been exported from Zaire, Haiti, Be-

lie Colombia, Korea, Lesotho, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Thailand and Taiwan. Only Travenol's centre in Puerto Rico and the Becton operation came under the jurisdiction of the FDA.

When supply failed to meet demand, international plasma brokers were asked to help.

The brokers' activities have been detailed by a Dutch journalist, Mr Piet Hagen, in his book *Blood: Gift or Merchandise?*

A key figure in the blood trade is Mr Thomas O. Hecht, whose Montreal-based firm, Continental Plasma, is reported to have achieved a turnover in plasma products of \$20 million in 1979.

He is reported to have been connected with West African plasmapheresis centres. Another is the Zurich-based firm of W. Brandenburger AG, while a

third, Mr B. G. Grobbelaar, former director of the Natal Blood Transfusion Service in South Africa, started a private plasmapheresis centre in Lesotho, and then moved his operation to independent African countries.

In the BMJ Dr Jones says: "Plasmapheresis centres supplying companies directly, or through the services of brokers, working principally from Zurich and Montreal, were situated in exactly the areas now known to be endemic for Kaposi's sarcoma (the Aids cancer) and other Aids-related diseases."

The DRESS last night declined to say what steps had been taken to check the source of the plasma used in the manufacture of imported blood products.

Blood: Gift or Merchandise? by Piet J. Hagen. Published in the United Kingdom by John Wiley, price £22.

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Mr B. G. Grobbelaar, former director of the Natal Blood Transfusion Service in South Africa, started a private plasmapheresis centre in Lesotho, and then moved his operation to independent African countries.

In the BMJ Dr Jones says: "Plasmapheresis centres supplying companies directly, or through the services of brokers, working principally from Zurich and Montreal, were situated in exactly the areas now known to be endemic for Kaposi's sarcoma (the Aids cancer) and other Aids-related diseases."

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Thatcher team studies FA's violence cure

By Ian Atkins, Political Editor

The Prime Minister and her ministerial task force on football hooliganism met at Downing Street yesterday to consider a 20-page report from the Football Association proposing sharply increased penalties for violence, and a possible ban on alcohol at matches.

It was the second meeting of the group set up by Mrs Thatcher last week after the violence by Millwall fans at Luton.

The group, which included the Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, and Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Sports Minister, met for more than an hour under Mrs Thatcher's chairmanship.

The signs are that Mrs Thatcher intends to produce practical proposals to curb football violence as quickly as possible, but she has encountered difficulty in establishing a suitable time for a meeting between ministers and representatives of the FA and the Football League.

Deputies claim closure breaks Nacods deal

By Paul Hoyland

Leaders of the pit deputies' union were meeting last night after reports that the National Coal Board intends to shut a Welsh pit without referring it to the new colliery review procedure.

Mr Glyn Jones, vice-president of National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shooters, has taken up the case of Bedwas colliery, near Caerphilly, Mid-Glamorgan, which, he claims, the board wants to close as soon as possible.

He said that the board was refusing to invoke the mod-

ified colliery review procedure, agreed with Nacods last October, until the National Union of Mineworkers lifted its overtime ban. No such condition had been raised when the agreement was signed, he said.

Mr Jones went on: "The Government, Mrs Thatcher, Mr Walker, Mr MacGregor, everyone has said that the Nacods agreement is sacrosanct. This week a joint team of management and unions inspected the two faces at Bedwas."

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Death flat had faulty boiler

By Susan Thirsk

A gas fire on the roof of a south London maisonette where a mother and her daughter were found dead had been damaged during a fire 10 days before. Southwark council court was told yesterday. A gas boiler in the maisonette was also defective.

Helen Smith, aged 31, and her daughter Natasha, 11, were found dead in their maisonette in Deighton Grove, Walworth on February 13. Mrs Smith's son, Michael, 13, who was found unconscious, died in St Thomas's hospital two days later.

Hypothermia was at first given as the cause of death by a Home Office pathologist. But further tests showed carbon monoxide in the blood of both Mrs Smith and her daughter. No trace of the poison was found in Michael Smith's body.

Professor Hugh Johnston said Mrs Smith and Natasha had died of hypothermia due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Michael had died of cerebral infarction (brain death) due to hypothermia. Traces of carbon monoxide in his blood might have gone by the time the tests were carried out.

Cross-examined by Mr Michael Mansfield, Mr Johnston rejected the idea that symptoms of hypothermia could have arisen after death from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The way Mrs Smith and her daughter were dressed, with Natasha's left arm out of her cardigan sleeve and Mrs Smith wearing two slips which were pulled up and her black pants partly pulled down, were a sign of hypothermia.

"It is called paradoxical undressing. It is found when people suffer from intense cold. They become very confused and their sense of temperature is completely lost."

The family had been overcome by the gas, so they could not escape and they died of the cold because of it, Professor Johnston said.

Damage to the gas line on the roof had been caused during the rescuing of a baby during a fire 10 days before the Smiths' bodies were found, the court was told.

Mr William Tanner, principal technical services officer for South Eastern Gas, who examined gas central heating equipment at the maisonette, said halting cracks in the joint of the gas fire could have affected the appliance.

Parts of a boiler in the maisonette had been repaired and partly cleaned shortly before the deaths but could not become backed again within a few days.

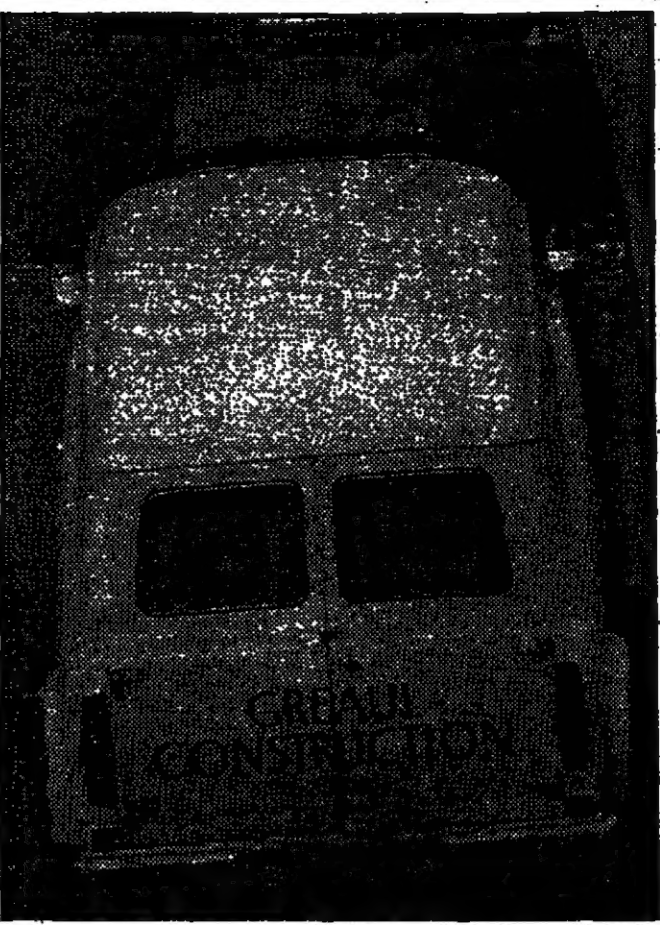
Carbon monoxide poison given off from the boiler when it was tested would have been forced into the room within two to three hours.

Mr Patrick Coddington, a friend of Mrs Smith, said he had visited her five days after the fire. He and the family had all complained of headaches and the two children had fallen asleep on the bed together before he left.

Hackney shop stewards committee agreed yesterday,

however, to press councillors to refuse to comply with the rates legislation.

Mr John Beha, who showed ways of scaling down the rolling groups desired £118 million budget many of which appeared to involve no sacrifice of Labour policies — to the £92 million maximum allowed under rate-cap controls.



UNDER FIRE: The van (above) in which James Balgrie is held up in a west London street. Pictures by E. Hamilton West

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The stewards said: "Implicit in the report are cuts in public services and conditions in Hackney, and agreed that if workers were not paid because of the council's decision, we will formally declare ourselves in dispute. But we call on all our members to make themselves available for work until directed otherwise by the joint shop stewards committee."

Mr Paul Worsley, defending Richardson, told the court that his client tried to keep within the law and that the weapons could have been altered to bring them within the law.

Mr Norman Jones, defending Lawton, said his client was a gifted engineer who had undertaken to modify the weapons as a challenge.

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Suspects face tighter controls

By Andrew Veitch

Suspected Aids sufferers can now be ordered into hospital and forced to submit to a medical examination.

Regulations laid before Parliament yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, gave magistrates from today the power to order treatment to protect the public against the spread of the disease.

In a Commons written reply he said: "They will allow for medical examination, removal to hospital, and detention of patients in a dangerous infectious state, and will be used if ever the necessity should arise."

They will also enable local authorities to prevent relatives of a person who has died of the disease from removing the body, and will require authorities to take "all reasonably practical steps" to prevent people coming into contact with, or proximity to, the body of an Aids sufferer.

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1985 make the disease subject to some of the provisions of the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984.

A local authority, with the consent of its local health authority, will be able to apply to a magistrate to order an Aids sufferer into hospital, and to be detained in hospital, when there is considered to be a risk to other people.

A magistrate will be empowered to order a person believed to be suffering from the disease to be examined by a doctor.

Mr Clarke has resisted pressure to make Aids a notifiable disease in case it deters people from volunteering for tests. The new powers would only be used in the last resort, he has stressed.

The minister added yesterday: "I am satisfied that the authorities do not require any further legal powers at the moment to protect the general public against the spread of the disease. We will keep the legal position under review."

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The Co-operative Bank announces a change in base rate

from 14.00% to 13.50% p.a. with effect from Thursday 21st March 1985

Deposit rates will become 7 days notice 10.50% p.a. 1 months notice 11.25% p.a.

Co-operative Bank
Cheque & Save
The notional interest rate on Cheque & Save is 14.00% p.a. (amounts beyond £1,000)

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK
Co-operative Bank p.l.c. P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

GO Bank

Immigration debate call

By David Rose

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday called for an early debate on immigration policy following the Guardian's disclosure yesterday that the Home Office has deliberately allowed long queues to develop in the Indian subcontinent as a covert means of imposing entry quotas.

The leader of the Opposition was backed in his call by Mr Clare Short and Mr Max Mauden, two Labour home affairs spokesmen, who demanded that ministers explain to MPs how such a policy came to be carried out without parliamentary authority.

The National Council for Civil Liberties and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants are to initiate legal action against the Government on the basis of the report.

Last night the Home Office was still refusing to comment on the disclosures.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, said later: "I am disgusted but not surprised. The whole thing is a degrading display of the attitude of the Home Office under this Government to people who have an unchallenged legal right to come here."

Ms Short said: "The Guardian report suggests that the Minister of State, David Waddington, has lied to the House and lied to the country. It is outrageous that not only has this gone on but, according to the report, ministers have already been told that it is illegal."

Mr John Longstaff, 36, of Thirsk, North Yorkshire, pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of firearms and components. Richardson was sentenced to six months' gaol, suspended for two years, and fined £500 and Lawton was fined £300. All the weapons were forfeited.

Mr Peter Collier, prosecuting, told the court that Rich-

Enthusiasts fined over weapons cache

A Government inquiry ordered after the death of an international arms dealer unearthed an illegal weapons cache, a judge heard yesterday.

The inquiry began last spring after Mr John Longstaff, 36, was found with his throat slashed in the locked toilet on board a Lufthansa jet when it landed at Heathrow Airport.

Ministry of Defence police later joined detectives carrying out raids on addresses throughout England in search of arms.

John Richardson, aged 37, a garage proprietor and former part-time soldier of Dishforth, North Yorkshire, admitted unlawful possession of a Sten gun, revolvers and ammunition. Self-employed engineer

Richardson was a weapons fanatic and Lawson was a brilliant engineer who was able to build, alter and repair weapons.

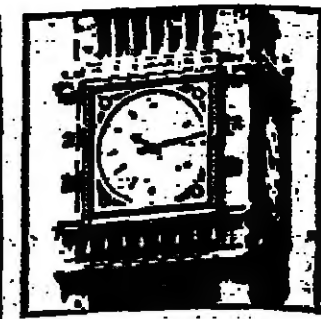
He said that Ministry of Defence and North Yorkshire police raided both defendants' homes a year ago and found weapons.

Later detectives traced the Uni to a Falklands veteran who gave Richardson an Argentinean nightstick in return. The soldier has been court-martialled.

Mr Paul Worsley, defending Richardson, told the court that his client tried to keep within the law and that the weapons could have been altered to bring them within the law.

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David McKie

Ducking, dodging, weaving, snarling

HOME NEWS

Consensus Tories worried by the great divide

Criticism is muted on Tyneside, but there is no hiding unease about jobs. Peter Hetherington reports

GEORGE SMITH says he is a consensus politician with "an uncomplicated philosophy" to campaign for his region and, he hopes, to convince ministers that they should devote more resources to the area.

"If we cannot correct the Government, or persuade them to help us more, what else is there?" he asks. "We are anxious to bring industry up here and change the region and we need the support of the Cabinet."

"There is a great divide between the south and the north. Just look at all the job advertisements in London. The papers are full of them, but the ads up here have disappeared."

Mr Smith is a Conservative, not a radical Tory, we are consensus people, but retains that traditional loyalty, the unwritten discipline of the party, which often ensures that criticism of the leadership is muted. But not always. As Conservative leader of a doomed Tyne and Wear Metropolitan County Council, and a leading party member in South Shields, Mr Smith chooses his words carefully, but there is no hiding the deep unease of his local constituency party and that of many others in the north.

The South Shields motion to the Conservative Central Council meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne today may welcome the Government's success in improving the "economic framework" but it urges the Cabinet "to give higher priority to reducing unemployment."

Other motions are more emphatic. The Durham party insists that a radical approach to tackling unemployment must be the first aim of economic policy; Sunderland says that a dramatic reduction must be the number one priority, while Redcar wants immediate measures to end "large-scale unemployment."

Even the less critical motion selected for debate, from Sedburgh, deep in Leicestershire, urges the Government to establish its policy and strategic intentions to reduce unemployment.

In the northern region, which has the highest unemployment rate of mainland Britain — 12.5 per cent, or 27,100 people — it is not hard to find a Conservative who finds this week's optimistic pre-budget message from the party chairman, Mr John Gummer, either misplaced or unreal.

Business confidence may be improving slightly — shipyards and the oil-rated industries are winning a few orders — but 24,500 more people were made redundant last year, almost twice the national average, according to Tyne and Wear county council.

In the first five months of last year there was a 38 per cent increase in business failures compared with the same period in 1984, while manufacturing investment has fallen sharply.

The northern region, along with Yorkshire and Humberside and the north-west, still shows more job losses than gains.

Set against this decline some northern Tories are enthusiastic, while others are deeply critical about the Chancellor's "budget for jobs."

"He should come and have a look up here to see just what things are like," one senior Tory said. Mr Lawson will do that tomorrow when he addresses the representatives, before the Prime Minister, in Newcastle City Hall, barely a mile away, in parts of the West End, male unemployment stands at 50 per cent.

Local councils are increasingly concerned about the number of skilled men joining the dole queues as the Tyne and Wear shipyards contract still further.

Exactly how new jobs are found, or funded, to replace those lost in the older industries is a matter of some debate in the party — between the moderates, like



Leaning on a lamppost at the corner of the street: out of work on Tyneside

George Smith, and the rightwing radicals, such as the young Newcastle North and Darlington MPs, Piers Merchant and Michael Fallon, who appear instinctively hostile to regional aid, which amounted to £118 million annually in the north at the last count.

Now the aid is being cut, and Mr Fallon's local party is deeply unhappy — indicating some disagreement with the MP in a motion to this weekend's central council. It urges the Government to reconsider the "savage" regional aid cuts, and notes that in EEC terms the north is now close behind Calabria, in Italy, "in terms of high unemployment and social deprivation."

Mrs Thatcher is likely to turn on what she sees as the "high spending" local councils in the north, particularly Newcastle, which recently increased its rates by 25 per cent after government cuts in the rate support grant.

The Sterling-Winthrop pharmaceutical group recently complained that rates in Newcastle were 70 per cent higher than in Guildford, Surrey, where its head office is located. "We would be saving £270,000 a year in rates if we had stayed there," said a company spokesman. Winthrop moved its manufacturing to Newcastle 30 years ago.

Mr Bert Moore, Newcastle council's Conservative leader, says: "I don't think you should overkill the rates element, but it is a factor in reducing employment — and that is deeply disturbing."

Picture by Don McPhee

Tax ruling cheers vermouth importers

CINZANO (UK) Ltd has won a legal battle which will save them more than £2 million a year in excise duty on imported vermouth. The firm plans to import vermouth of two different alcoholic strengths — taxed at different rates — and then blend them in the United Kingdom.

The Customs and Excise considered the blending amounted to wine production on which further tax was payable and this view was upheld by High Court Judge, Mr Justice McNeill, last July. But two weeks later the Court of Appeal ruled in Cinzano's favour. Yesterday the House of Lords unanimously agreed with the appeal court and dismissed the Customs' appeal.

Lord Brightman said the rate of duty on the wine under the 1979 Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act depended on its alcoholic strength. Cinzano had been importing vermouth at an alcoholic strength of between 15 per cent and 18 per cent, and selling it at that strength after paying the appropriate excise duty.

Lord Scarman, Lord Edmund Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkel, and Lord Templeman agreed in dismissing the appeal.

Extra payments for 'manager' doctors

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Nearly 1,000 consultants and GPs are to be offered a £2,500 annual management responsibility payment for the redefinition of a job they already do free for the National Health Service.

The payments are part of an incentive package negotiated between the British Medical Association and the Department of Health and Social Security to streamline the management of the NHS following recommendations by Mr Roy Griffiths, the deputy chairman and managing director of Rainsbury's.

Under the proposals, doctors already working in hospital management teams with full-time nurse managers and administrators will be eligible for the new payments as unit medical representatives.

They will have to sign a new contract outlining their management functions and will be expected to re-schedule their consultant duties or pay the cost of providing a locum if they are GPs.

Mr Frank Wells, head of the BMA's hospital services, said that there had been negotiations with the department for some time to secure an agreement for people already working in management.

He went on: "We have published a model contract which we hope will be acceptable to all health authorities already employing doctors."

"We need to encourage doctors to become more interested in management and we hope that this will help persuade them to take a greater interest."

The department has also agreed further incentives to encourage consultants and doctors to apply for the expected 800 unit general manager posts now being advertised by health authorities to replace unit administrators.

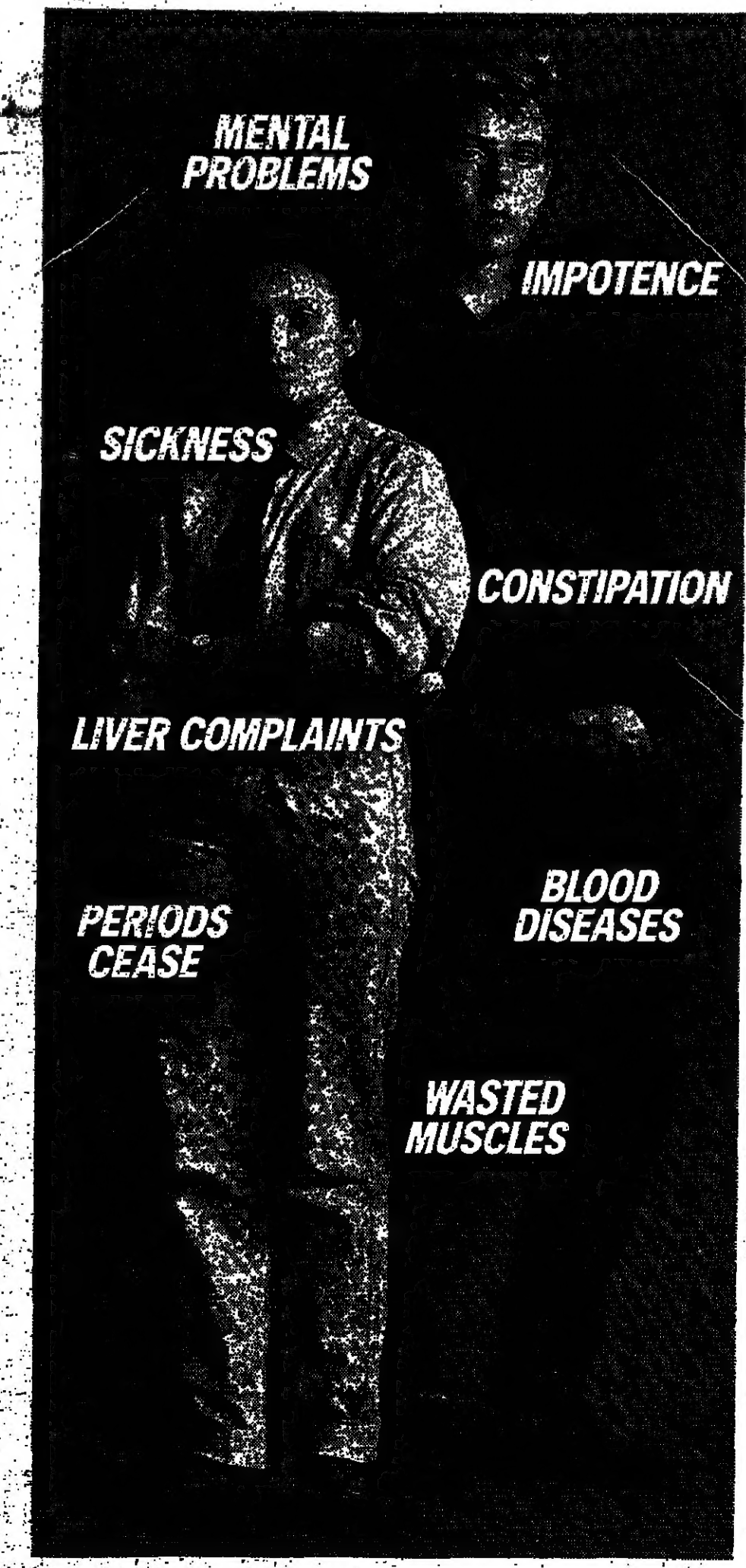
The DHSS has agreed that doctors should receive £3,000 a year on top of their salaries if they become unit general managers. The department is also offering extra cash for consultants to become part-time unit general managers.

They will be eligible for an extra one-eighth of their present salary of £26,000. They will also have the right to resume their existing clinical sessions once they leave the job.

Consultants who opt to do both part-time unit general manager jobs and serve as a unit medical representative will be entitled to a maximum fee of £4,000 a year but will need the approval of Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, to do both jobs.

Cost of these extra salaries will be borne by district health authorities within existing budgets.

FIND OUT THE FACTS ABOUT DRUGS BEFORE YOUR CHILDREN FIND OUT THE HARD WAY.



How much do you really know about drug misuse?

What are the main dangers?

How long does it take before someone becomes addicted?

There has been so much information — and misinformation — bandied about recently that you'd be forgiven for being confused.

The one undeniable fact is that all drugs can be harmful if misused — although to greater or lesser degrees.

Cannabis can induce lethargy, for example, while heroin can lead to much greater problems.

The point is that, if your children are experimenting with drugs, they're playing with fire.

But how can you talk to them about the problem if you don't know the facts?

At best, you're going to sound like an old fogey who doesn't understand.

At worst, like the heavy voice of authority laying down the law.

We've put together a leaflet that can help. It's called 'What parents can do about drugs.'

As well as giving you useful addresses and telephone numbers, it tells you why teenagers take drugs, what to look out for and how you should respond.

Send off for it and then you can discuss the problem with your children sensibly.

Because the more you know about drugs, the more convincing you're going to be.

Please send me the leaflet, 'What parents can do about drugs.'

Name _____

Address _____

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Post to: Dept. DM/GUA1, PO Box 100, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1TY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police hunt train killer

POLICE yesterday found the body of a woman who had been thrown from a train between Euston, London, and Birmingham on Wednesday night. Her throat appeared to have been cut.

The search for a body began after the train, which left Euston at 9.02 pm on Wednesday arrived with a compartment covered in blood. The woman, who has not been identified, was about 5ft 2in tall and was aged between 25 and 30.

Fire chief faces drink drive charge

DERBYSHIRE's chief fire officer, Trevor Slevin, (above), who was relieved of command in full pay Wednesday afternoon at West Derbyshire magistrates' court at Ashbourne yesterday on a drink driving charge which was adjourned until May 2.

Slevin pleaded not guilty to failing to provide a breath specimen at Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, on December 22. No plea was taken on the charge of having excessive alcohol in his blood.

Siege man 'wanted' shoot-out with police

A man suspected of several armed robberies wanted a shoot-out with police when he barricaded himself in his home, an inquest was told yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector John Shoemaker told the inquest at Southwark, south London, that during a two-day siege Anthony Baldessare's attitude changed from one of "fatalistic pessimism" as to the outcome to "calm cooperation."

But at the end of the siege's second day, a shot was heard from the flat in Streatham, and when police went in the next day they found Baldessare, aged 45, dead on the floor with a handgun beside him.

Mr Shoemaker, who negotiated with Baldessare by telephone, said: "There were clear indications that he wanted police to charge the barricaded door to the flat."

"There was little doubt that he wanted to die in a shoot-out with the police. I assured him that police were not allowed to take such action."

The inquest was told that Baldessare was wanted for burglary and suspected of a number of armed robberies, including 6th in Pett's Wood last August when a police dog was shot.

The .38 revolver Baldessare used to shoot himself was the one used in two robberies, including the Pett's Wood case.

When armed police went to arrest Baldessare, they surrounded the house and asked him to come out. He said he would once he had spoken to his family.

Police later heard police like-guards and Baldessare told them: "It's OK, just testing — but I'm a terrible shot, you've got nothing to worry about."

On the second day, a noise was heard and police believed he had committed suicide. The jury returned a suicide verdict.

Ex-SAS chief for Ulster command

A former SAS commanding officer is to become the army's No. 2 in Northern Ireland. Brigadier Anthony Jeapes will take up the post of commander of the Ulster Land Forces in Ulster in March, upon promotion to the rank of Major General. Jeapes, aged 49, was commanding officer of the 2nd SAS Regiment for three years until 1973. The Army said that his appointment was in no way an emergency measure and should be seen as a normal promotion.

However, the appointment is likely to prove controversial in Northern Ireland, particularly after the deaths in recent months of seven IRA men in clashes with the SAS and recent comments by Mr. Douglas Hurd, the Northern Ireland Secretary about the need for a strong security policy.

Brigadier Jeapes is at present commander of the 5th Airborne Brigade, based at Aldershot. He has served in Malaya, Bangladesh and Oman. He had two spells in the SAS — one as a junior officer and one as a commanding officer.

He wrote a book about the SAS war fought and won against the IRA in 1970-78. It took almost two years to get official clearance for publication of the book, which describes his own experience as a SAS trooper, squadron commander in one of the SAS's most reported counter-insurgency campaigns.

In the book he wrote: "You have to be a certain kind of person to like the kind of thing we were doing."

The war was primarily won by the civil development programme of the Omani Government.

More teachers to lose pay for refusing 'voluntary' duties

Ballot demanded by court shows big NUT majority for action

By Penny Chorlton

The National Union of Teachers has voted by a massive majority in favour of its official "no cover" action in schools, in support of the claim for a £1,200 pay increase.

Twenty per cent of the votes have to be counted, but the NUT's deputy general secretary, Mr. Doug McAvoy, said that he expected the final vote to show over 70 per cent support for the action.

South Tyneside and Liverpool teachers gave the strongest support, returning votes of 95 and 94 per cent in favour. Support was also solid in the Midlands and across the north of England, with slightly less in the more affluent areas of the south and East Anglia, with the lowest recorded vote in favour being 59 per cent in Surrey.

Mr. McAvoy said: "That's a tremendous vote of confidence in the leadership of the union. He warned county councillors who face elections in May to consider the votes. Teachers began withdrawing

from voluntary duties, which they insist are not contractual, on February 6. They do not cover for absent colleagues, attend out-of-hours meetings, or supervise lunch breaks.

The NUT decided to ballot its members after the Conservative-controlled borough of Solihull obtained a High Court injunction which required a ballot in the area.

Solihull's council leaders said yesterday they would continue to deduct teachers pay by £2 each time a member of staff refused to do any voluntary duties.

Mr. Geoffrey Wright, chairman of Solihull's education committee said: "The refusal of some teachers to cover for absent colleagues is causing serious problems in our schools."

"Teachers will not, of course, get paid for the days or half days when they are on strike. They also have to understand that they will continue to lose money when they take action which sets out to disrupt the education of our

school children," added Mr. Wright.

With no conciliatory moves by the Government or the education authorities, the three largest teacher unions in England, Wales and Scotland vowed to step up their disruptive action which is affecting around one-and-a-half million schoolchildren.

Last night, the National Association of Further and Higher Education Teachers, which has 78,000 members, feared that

Burnham Committee pay talks might break down unless employers come up with an improved offer on the 4 per cent already refused.

The higher and further education lecturers were able to discuss their pay claim within the Burnham Committee, because unlike school teachers they have agreed to sidestep salary increases alongside condition and changes in salary structure. School teachers want the two issues discussed separately.

More than 10 per cent of the

country's colleges of further and higher education have already voted in favour of a no cover plan and, according to the union, this has already begun in about 80 colleges.

Yesterday, the NUT said that the London borough of Croydon had joined authorities which have started docking pay from teachers involved in the various disputes.

Among the 456 schools in England and Wales where members of the NUT will be out on a three-day strike next week is the one which borders the home of Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary.

His Hammersmith home is one of the 52 education authorities whose schools will be severely disrupted when 8,500 NUT members walk out.

The teachers and the employers have now been to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, and a spokesman for ACAS said yesterday that all the views put to them by both sides were being considered.

Warnock seeks professional teaching body



By John Fairhall, Education Editor

Teachers should be monitored by a general teaching council and bad ones should be struck off and not allowed to teach, Baroness Warnock said in her Dimbleby Lecture on BBC television last night.

Lady Warnock declared: "In the old days, though not now, teachers at least had the merit, in the eyes of the public, of being dedicated. Alas, the public no longer thinks so."

"Parents may feel that their children are being indoctrinated with certain social and political beliefs which, they, the parents, do not share."

An example, she said, was political education in inner London Education Authority schools. Parents were right to be hostile — "the LEA are abusing their powers for political ends."

Lady Warnock said that it would be a terrible blow to the prestige of teachers if the National Union of Teachers insisted on them all striking for a rise for everyone. What was needed was not a general pay

rise but a system of pay differentials.

Teachers were undervalued in Britain but particularly at the top of the profession. A head should rank in salary with a general practitioner, an assistant secretary in the Civil Service, or the managing director of a small to medium-sized firm.

She said that parent-teacher associations had limited value. It is not because few black people apply, suggests Mr. Michael King, solicitor and lecturer at the School of Law, Warwick University, and Mr. Colin May, a School of Law research fellow, but extensive racial prejudice and discrimination against applicants from ethnic minorities.

No statistics are kept on the numbers of black magistrates, but the authors estimated from their own research that there are 250 to 300 out of about 25,000.

The report expresses deep concern at finding selection committees making gross generalisations about the characteristics of ethnic groups. West Indians, according to one committee secretary, were "volatile and excitable", but "slow speaking and having slow reactions", according to another.

While Asians in some areas were required to be "acceptable" to the whole Asian community "in other places ethnic minority candidates would be asked whether they might try to use their positions on the bench to benefit their communities."

The researchers felt that a formal panel interview was no place to assess a black candidate's command of English and pointed out that potential black magistrates, usually from more difficult economic circumstances than their white equivalent would not find it as easy to get the time off work and still make financial ends meet.

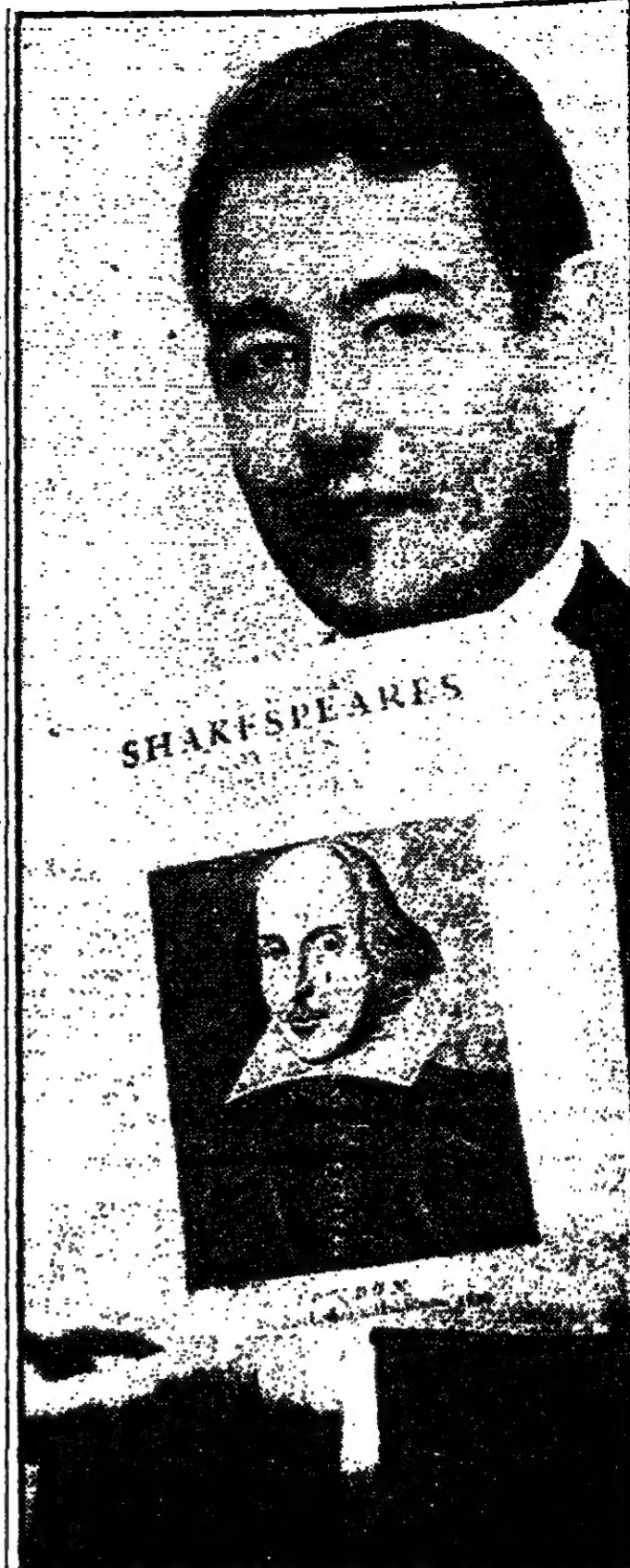
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Mr. King called the interview procedure "somewhat amateurish" and criticised the appointment committees for their lack of expertise.

Interviews were informal when the applicant was known to committee members through personal contacts, which was also the way most applicants were put forward. Discreet enquiries were made to employers and other referees. Black candidates, less likely to be personally known to the committee, were at a disadvantage.

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FINE FOLIO: David Redden, of Sotheby's, holds a first complete edition of Shakespeare's plays—one of fewer than 200 to survive since publication in 1623—which is expected to reach at least \$300,000 when auctioned with other first editions in New York next month. Picture by Garry Weaver

US joins home defence exercise

By David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

AMERICAN troops will take part this autumn in the first big joint-service home defence exercise in this country since the second world war.

Codenamed Brave Defender, the exercise from September 6 to 12 will involve 65,000 regular troops, part-time territorial and reservists—mainly from the British Army and the newly-created Home Service Force, and includes RAF, Royal Navy and US personnel.

The "enemy" will be teams of Soviet saboteurs, the so-called Spetsnaz or special forces, played by 4,000 British soldiers infiltrated from Rhine Army units in Germany.

It was the assessment of the United Kingdom two years ago that in a non-nuclear European war, the main threat to Britain would be the Soviet Spetsnaz rather than an invasion, which prompted this exercise.

The defenders' jobs will be to protect key points—airfields, radar stations, communications centres, barracks and docks—against enemy saboteurs who may be disguised as civilians.

British soldiers playing this role in the exercise will be clearly identified, even if they are in plain clothes, to avoid frightening civilians.

Brave Defender breaks new ground, much of it politically sensitive. The organisers want to avoid a clash with the anti-nuclear movement.

Brave Defender's scenario is non-nuclear and the civil authorities are involved only indirectly.

To avoid any confusion, nuclear power stations—which would be vital targets in a real war—and nuclear air bases like Greenham Common, will not be included as targets.

Brave Defender, which will cost £2 million, will be a first big opportunity for the new Home Service Force, the modern "Dad's Army" now recruiting towards a 5,000 target, to go through its paces.

Cobden Trust finds Asian and blacks face discrimination in JP selection

By Sarah Boseley

Few black people become magistrates because the selection system is heavily weighted against them, according to a report yesterday from the Cobden Trust civil liberties group.

It is not because few black people apply, suggests Mr. Michael King, solicitor and lecturer at the School of Law, Warwick University, and Mr. Colin May, a School of Law research fellow, but extensive racial prejudice and discrimination against applicants from ethnic minorities.

No statistics are kept on the numbers of black magistrates, but the authors estimated from their own research that there are 250 to 300 out of about 25,000.

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should cover magistrate selection and the law should ensure job protection and allow an employer to be compensated for the loss of an employee's services through magistracy duties, says the report.

The Lord Chancellor's Office said an effort, including advertising in ethnic minority papers, was made to recruit black magistrates.

It added: "The Lord Chancellor's Office has no reason to believe that there is any racial discrimination, direct or indirect, in the selection process. Nevertheless, the results of the research will be carefully studied."

Mr. Geoffrey Norman, the Magistrates' Association secretary, said: "We would reject the suggestion that there is any racial prejudice in the selection process."

"If a person does not have a sufficient understanding of the English way of life or is too narrowly representative of his command of the English language is inadequate, he is not a suitable candidate."

The Commission for Racial Equality welcomed the report. Its chairman, Mr. Peter Newsam, said the findings would go towards proposals for Race Relations Act reform it was considering.

Black Magistrates, Michael King and Colin May, Cobden Trust, 21 Tuberd Street, London SE1 4LA. 24.55.

Soldier cleared by Lords of shotgun murder

By Paul Keel

A soldier serving life imprisonment for killing his stepfather during a contest to prove their prowess with shotguns was cleared of murder by the House of Lords yesterday.

Five law lords, overruling the Court of Appeal, unanimously held that the conviction of Alistair Baden Moloney, aged 24, at Birmingham Crown Court in September 1992 was unsafe, substituted a manslaughter verdict and sent the case back to the Appeal Court for a decision on.

Maloney, of Ermsford Grange, Coventry, who has been in custody since November 1991, shot his stepfather after a family party.

He said that he and his stepfather continued drinking after everyone else had gone to bed. Maloney said he was very drunk and he suspected that his stepfather was as well.

The conversation turned to shotguns, and Mr. Patrick Maloney, the victim, challenged far as I know, no one has yet suggested that recklessness can furnish the necessary element in the crime of murder."

Maloney, then with the Gordon Highlanders, had offered a manslaughter plea at his trial, which the Crown refused.

didn't think you'd got the guts, but if you have, pull the trigger. I didn't aim the gun, I just pulled the trigger and he was dead. I then went and called the police."

Lord Bridge of Harwich said yesterday that Maloney was part of a united family and the two men had enjoyed a happy relationship.

The trial jury's task had been simple, Lord Bridge said. If they were sure that when he fired Maloney realised the shotgun was pointing at his stepfather's head, then they were bound to convict him of murder.

If they thought that in his drunken state, and faced with a ridiculous challenge from his stepfather to see who was quickest on the draw and not being aware that the shotgun was pointing at him, he should have been acquitted.

Lord Bridge said: "What ever his state of mind, he was undoubtedly guilty of a high degree of recklessness. But, so far as I know, no one has yet suggested that recklessness can furnish the necessary element in the crime of murder."

Maloney, then with the Gordon Highlanders, had offered a manslaughter plea at his trial, which the Crown refused.

Maloney told police: "He looked at me and said, 'I

Demand for test details

All the secret documents on underground explosions conducted in Cornwall in 1959 should be made public, the opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr. George Foulkes, said yesterday.

Villagers in the Kit Hill area of Bodmin Moor are forming an action group to demand full disclosure of information. A public meeting is to be held at Luckett, near Callington, next week.

Mr. Foulkes's call followed the report in yesterday's Guardian that the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment carried out a series of underground explosions at Kit Hill in 1959.

Lord Penney, who was director of the Aldermaston Research Centre from 1953 to 1959, has confirmed that tests were carried out at Kit Hill but denied they involved any use of radioactive material. Only conventional high explosives were used to test for seismic shock waves.

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority yesterday confirmed that radioactive material had been used in tests in Holman Quarry, Cornwall, as a tracer to find out how ground water absorbs radioactive particles. Its use had stopped 18 months ago.

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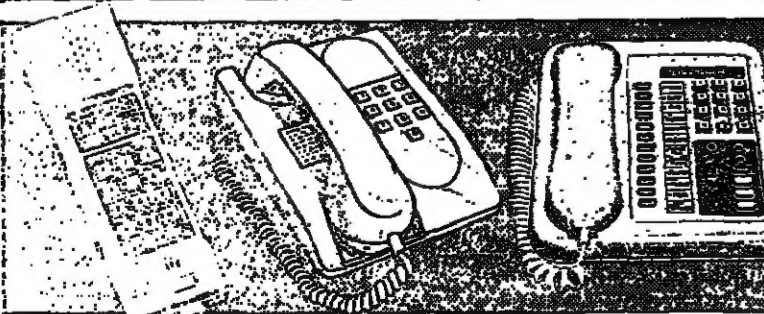
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سكوب من الاصل

Wage Councils for shake-up, says King

BUDGET DEBATE

By Alan Travis

The Employment Secretary, Mr. Tom King, said yesterday that proposals to reform or abolish Wage Councils were necessary if "the voice of the unemployed was to be heard."

Opening the second day of debate on the budget, Mr. King said the employment proposals in the budget would ensure that everyone under 18 would have a job, education or training and unemployment need not be an option for them.

It was necessary, he said, to take action on Wage Councils and the Employment Protection Act in order to remove obstacles in the labour market which prevented employers from taking on new labour.

"If the voice of the unemployed is to be heard, a new balance must be struck and some change in these regulations is necessary."

On Wage Councils Mr. King announced the publication of a consultative paper to which he wants responses by the end of May. The Government is to enter into immediate talks with the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress. They will be aimed at de-ratifying the International Labour Convention, which at present stops the Government abolishing the councils.

"Many argue that the only way to tackle Wage Councils is to sweep them away. Others say they can be reformed by limiting them to single-hourly rates and retrospective pay awards could be stopped. The issue is reform or abolition."

"If we are to help the unemployed we must regain our freedom to take whatever action is necessary."

Mr. John Prescott, the Shadow Employment spokesman, said the announcement was the most deplorable he had ever heard in the House.



Mr Prescott: "Deplorable"

He said the rules of the community programme have also deterred charities and voluntary organisations from playing a bigger part and he now wanted to get them involved as much as possible. He also announced proposals to develop the voluntary programme, which has helped 55,000 unemployed people in the past year.

Mr Prescott, opening for the Opposition, said the package of measures announced by Mr. King amounted to part-time jobs at the expense of the lowest-paid in our society.

He said the solutions to the problems of unemployment could not be found in these schemes but only in the strategy of a Government which was determined to do something about the problem.

On Wage Councils he said Britain would be the only country out of 94 who had reneged after signing the ILO convention.

"We are the only ones in the world where we are saying that the level of unemployment requires the Government to act at the expense of the lowest-paid." To Conservative cries of "disgraceful," Mr. Prescott described the youth training scheme as essentially a means of "adding the unemployment figures."

On training, Mr. King announced that the Manpower Services Commission is to review vocational qualifications to ensure that teenagers leaving the newly-proposed two-year youth training scheme achieve recognised standards rather than just time-serving.

Mr. King said he had also asked the MSC to immediately investigate ways in which the private sector can play a major part in the community programme which provides for the long-term unemployed.

Embryo bill clears new hurdle

HEALTH

By Colin Brown

MR ENOCH POWELL succeeded early yesterday in getting his controversial bill banning research on embryos through its committee stage.

Opponents to the bill, led by Mr. Frank Dobson, the Shadow Health spokesman, allowed the bill to complete its committee stage shortly before 2 am, this morning having satisfied themselves that it would have difficulty getting through its Report Stage.

Mr Powell has named Friday, April 19, as the Report Stage day for the bill in the Commons. It is in third place behind a bill by Mr. Neville Trotter (C. Tyne-mouth) to curb the sale of glue sniffing kits and a bill by Mr. William Powell (C. Corby) on computer software patents.

To succeed in getting his bill through the Commons on that day, Mr Powell will have to depend on the other two bills being given a fast hearing. This is possible —

Mr Trotter's bill spent only seven minutes in committee. But opponents of Mr Powell's bill can be counted on to delay their passage as long as possible. Mr Trotter said yesterday he would not swap places with Mr Powell to ensure the passage of Mr Powell's measure.

Mr Dobson said the opponents of the bill would keep up their fight to stop it reaching the statute book.

One of the Tory opponents of the bill, Mr David Crouch (Canterbury) said in the Commons yesterday that no exceptional measures should

be taken to assist the progress of the bill in view of the Government's neutrality.

There were shouts of "shame" from some of the Tory MPs as he asked Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, for the assurance that the bill would not be given government parliamentary time.

Mr Biffen told MPs that the Government was maintaining its stand of neutrality towards the bill "and there it remains."

● Right—Mr Powell



Alliance gathers votes of 'yummies' and 'yuppies'

By Martin Linton

All the political parties are now beginning to examine their relative strengths and weaknesses among various target groups of voters as they prepare their strategies for the next general election, which may be not much more than two years away.

Their own polls will be showing them a profile of the electorate which will be very similar to the table below, based on the detailed results of the Guardian-Marplan Index for March and showing how far they rise above or fall below their average level of support in each voter group.

The Conservatives are consistently more popular among women than men and Labour

are usually more popular among men, as they are this month. The Alliance tends to be less popular among women than men and so do its leaders, though this is more true of Dr Owen than of Mr Steel.

Labour is the strongest party among young voters with 40 per cent against 34 per cent for the Conservatives and 34 per cent for the Alliance. It is

also Mr Kinnock's strongest age group and it is the weakest for Mrs Thatcher and Messrs Steel and Owen.

The Alliance tends to do better among the two middle age groups while the Conservatives have their strength in the older age groups, particularly the over-65s, as does Mrs Thatcher.

So far as occupational groups

are concerned the Conservatives do very much better than the professional ABs and the clerical CIs, while Labour does better among the skilled workers C2, but particularly among the unskilled and unemployed DE.

What has become much clearer in recent months is that the Alliance draws a great deal of support among the AB

and CI classes, not at the expense of the Conservatives but of the Labour Party, who are now in third place in both of these groups.

With its bias in favour of the 25-44 age group the Alliance is becoming the party of the voters that the Americans call the yummies and yuppies — the young upwardly mobile and the young urban professionals.

Dr Owen's rise in popularity, which has taken him four points clear of Mr Steel, appears to owe a great deal to his support among the AB and CI voters while Mr Steel's popularity is skewed more towards the DE classes. He also has a Scottish and Northern bias while Dr Owen has a slight southern bias.

	Sex	Age	Class				Region				All			
	Men	Women	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Nth	Mid	Sth	
Cons	-3	+3	-2	-5	+1	+9	+9	+11	-2	-12	-7	+3	+4	36
Thatcher	-1	+1	-3	-3	+1	+5	+8	+7	+1	-10	-4	0	+3	31
Lab	+3	-2	+4	+1	-1	-2	-18	-15	+5	+17	+7	-4	-3	31
Kinnock	+2	-2	+2	+0	+1	-2	-5	-9	+2	+8	+4	-2	-2	26
AI	0	-1	+3	+0	+1	-2	+8	+4	-3	-5	-1	+1	0	27
Steel	+1	0	-5	+1	+2	+1	-3	+1	-1	+2	+2	0	-1	12
Owen	+1	-1	-2	0	0	+1	+8	+4	-5	-3	-1	0	+1	16

Dr Owen's rise in popularity, which has taken him four points clear of Mr Steel, appears to over a great deal to his support among the AB and C1 voters while Mr Steel's popularity is concentrated among the C2 and DE classes. He also has a 27 Scottish and Northern bias while Dr Owen has a slight SOUTHERN bias.

Mortgage rise will not last long — Lawson

MORTGAGES

By our Political Staff

MR NIGEL LAWSON, told the Commons yesterday, he expected the one per cent rise in mortgage rates to last less than a year.

The Chancellor claimed that the benefits in income tax reductions in the budget would last for a full year while any extra burden in mortgage interest would last only so long as the mortgage interest rate was higher — "which will be considerably less than a year."

Mr Lawson had been asked by Conservative backbencher Mr Andrew Mackay how much inflation would be fuelled by the "short-sighted and foolish increase in the mortgage rate by the building societies."

During Treasury questions, Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, said that for most home owners the rise in the mortgage rate will have wiped out any tax cuts in the budget.

Later during Prime Minister's questions, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Opposition Leader, challenged the Government to introduce a system which would give home buyers greater stability over mortgage repayments.

He said the one per cent rise would cause very great hardship to thousands of home-buying families. He asked the Prime Minister to support those building society chiefs who favoured a system of fixing mortgage rates which was more rational and would produce greater stability.

Mrs Thatcher firmly rejected the demand saying: "Of course, I regret the one

per cent rise in mortgage rates. But I believe the building societies must be the best judge of the rates necessary to get in sufficient money to enable them to continue to meet the demand for mortgages."

Mr Kinnock taunted the Prime Minister for being the head of a "high mortgage government." He said the mortgage rate had never

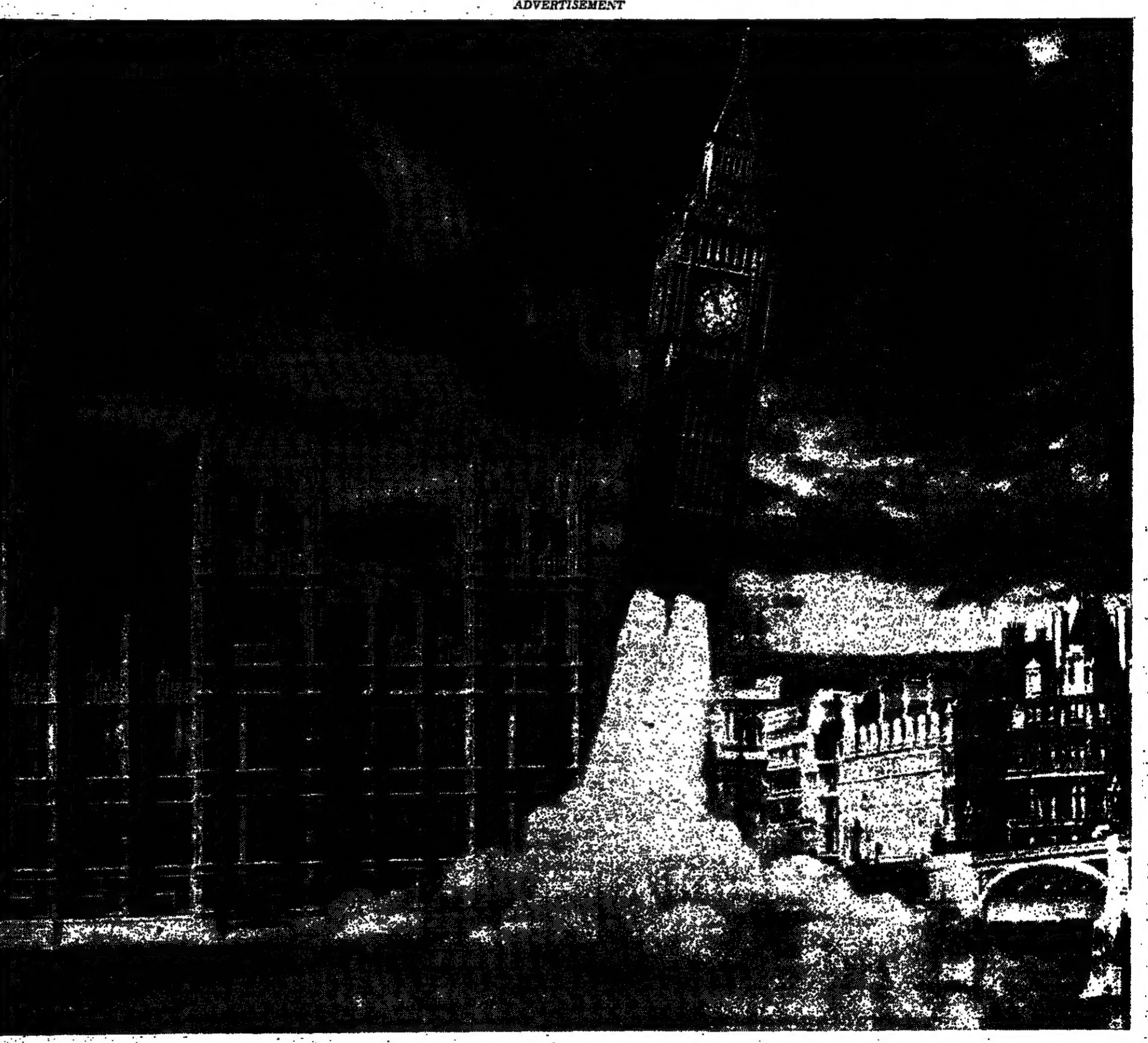


Mr Mackay

been in single figures since the Conservatives came to power.

He said Mrs Thatcher did not understand the immense anxiety of a family with a £20,000 mortgage, whose payments had gone up £30 a month since last summer alone. "Does she think it is right that they should be the victims of short-term speculation by big money speculators?"

"I am so glad you are concerned," replied Mrs. Thatcher. "But I hope you will also consider the need to keep council rates down to counteract the increase."



IF THE GOVERNMENT ABOLISHES THE METS, WHERE WILL COSTS GO?

Ministers have claimed that abolition would save ratepayers of the "big six" County Councils at least £50 million a year. Yet they accept the independence of a top level Consultant's Study revealing that abolition could cost ratepayers an extra £69 million annually, with transitional costs alone of £250 million — and that services would suffer as a result! Despite a record-making 200 hours of Committee debate in the House of Commons, Government Ministers have not only failed to substantiate the savings claim, but have even recognised the possibility of some costs increasing.

Nor have they been able to point out any other benefits of abolition. And they have only a fond hope that services will remain the same! An extra £69 million a year is a lot to ask the ratepayer to pay for services to get worse.

Shouldn't an enquiry be launched, before the costs of abolition really take off?

Abolition-at any cost?

Next week's business

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday: End of budget debate; National Health Service Charges Amendment; National Loans Bill (Second Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (First Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Second Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Third Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Fourth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Fifth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Sixth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Seventh Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Eighth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Ninth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Tenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Eleventh Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twelfth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirteenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Fourteenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Fifteenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Sixteenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Seventeenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Eighteenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Nineteenth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twentieth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-first Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-second Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-third Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-fourth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-fifth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-sixth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-seventh Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-eighth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Twenty-ninth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirtieth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-first Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-second Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-third Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-fourth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-fifth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-sixth Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-seventh Reading); Local Government Finance Bill (Thirty-eighth Reading); 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Israel is returning to the bad old days of Haddadland

From Jan Black in Beirut, Lebanon. The "iron fist" that crushed another 21 Amal fighters to death yesterday may bring temporary relief to the retreating Israelis, but their only hope of blunting the sharp edge of Muslim resistance is to get out, and get out fast.

The question still exercising Israeli military planners is exactly how to go—and how far back to the border.

The Israelis have never made any secret of their intention to establish conditions that would guarantee the safety of their northern frontier and the peace of Galilee once the three-stage withdrawal from Lebanon is completed. They hoped at first, naively perhaps, to reach an

agreement on "security arrangements" with the Beirut Government at the abortive Naqura talks. Now they are poring over maps and examining unilateral options as the pullback accelerates.

Israeli political and military sources insist that a final decision on the precise configuration of the planned security zone has not yet been taken. The Defence Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, who feels he is clearing up the mess created by his Likud predecessors, is said to be so despondent about dealing with Lebanon that he simply cannot make up his mind what to do. All the options look bad.

On the ground, there is already sufficient Israeli movement to assess roughly where the new line will be drawn. It

begins, there seems little doubt, at Rasal-Bayada, a hauntingly beautiful promontory on the coast halfway between Naqura and Tyre.

The edge of the new zone then sweeps up in a gentle arc, always more or less equidistant from the border, along a ridge of hills to the majestic ruins of Beaufort castle, the Litani river, the Christian stronghold of Marjayoun, and then across to the town of Hasbaya in the Druze foothills of Mount Hermon.

The plans may not have yet been approved, but this final line is now beginning to form. On Wednesday, for example, Israeli engineers gave a clear indication when they evacuated a fixed position at the Sidqin crossroads, an important junction

controlling the road north to the militant Shi'ite villages east of Tyre.

The day before, Mr. Rabin landed by helicopter on a hill just beyond the Israeli Unifil headquarters at Tibnin. The Irish contingent is convinced that recent provocations are aimed at dislodging them from positions close to the security zone.

Speculation is relatively easy because all agree that Israel's cordon sanitaire in south Lebanon will end up by being roughly the same as the border enclave controlled by the late Major Sa'ad Haddad from the mid-1970s until the 1982 invasion. Those who remember "Haddadland" feel a sense of deep irony rather than indignation now that it is returning.

After more than 1,000 days of war in Lebanon and 840 Israeli dead, there is a growing sense of going back to square one, but with new disadvantages now that did not exist before the invasion. The relatively small size of the emerging security zone is being determined by the need to exclude elements hostile to Israel—that is, as many Shi'ites as possible.

But a proposed width of five to eight miles from the international border does not put artillery or the dreaded Katyusha rockets used by the Palestinians, and now by the Shi'ite resistance, out of range of Galilee.

Crucial decisions still have to be made. Israeli military sources acknowledge privately that General Antoine Lahad's

South Lebanese Army will effectively collapse once the Israelis withdraw from Christian towns like Jezzine. "The SLA," one high-ranking officer says, "will find its natural dimensions." Mr. Rabin, his critics say, is deluding himself if he still believes he can rely on Lahad's men.

The solution to Israel's dilemma can only take it back to the bad old days and bad old ways of Haddadland. The Sin Bet and other local collaborators have already been encouraging Amal activists near the security zone to head north and keep out of trouble. A young woman was shot dead in Haris, near Tibnin, a fortnight ago, when one of these Sin Bet operations went wrong.

Israeli officers now talk about setting up "loose coordination" between different units, but by a common interest to prevent outsiders coming in to carry out terrorist activities. This is also bound to require some sort of Israeli military and intelligence presence, open or clandestine, a molestation of the Palestinian or Shi'ite will not be able to keep the wolf from the door.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, has said that Israel is finally ending its involvement in Lebanon's internal affairs. Perhaps, Koteret Rabin magazine commented yesterday, the Israeli Government is still behaving like a wife: walking away but looking back all the time.

Antonomy negotiations between the Government and the Kurds broke down in January, since when the army reportedly has increased its presence in a policy of terror which, as in the Lebanon, seems only to be stiffening popular resistance.

Earlier this month, the guerrillas of the Kurdish Democratic Party attacked an Iraqi military convoy, at about 100 vehicles on the road between Zakho and Batufa, near the vital international highway that crosses Turkey and is now one of Iraq's main links with the outside world. According to the KDP, the Kurds killed all day, the Iraqis lost 24 soldiers killed, including two senior officers.

The next day, the Iraqi army destroyed a Kurdish village, Muhah Arib, and took 150 villagers prisoner. Retaliatory measures against civilians, the Kurds say, has not recently been the practice of the Iraqi army and is seen as a measure of Baghdad's increasing desperation.

Last week when an amnesty to Iraqi opposition elements inside and outside the country expired, the army launched massive operations, backed by artillery and helicopters, to hunt down army deserters and guerrilla suspects in the Kurdish area of Arbil.

The KDP said 20 villages were bombed; four villages were severely damaged and as many as 250 people killed or injured.

Baghdad then sent a delegation from the Defence Ministry to Mosul to discuss the reorganisation of the army in the North, but the KDP kidnapped some of the party's bodyguard and seized top secret army papers including war plans.

The army then launched a security operation in the Mosul area to recover the documents, but were unable to prevent them being smuggled into the "liberated" area controlled by the KDP.

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Ahwaz citizens told to get out of town

Iraq bombers leave Khomeini unmoved

From David Hirst in Amman

Iraq yesterday kept up its air raids on Iranian cities and claimed success in two small ground offensives, apparently in the hope of forcing Iran to the negotiating table. But Ayatollah Khomeini insisted that Iran would fight on until President Saddam Hussein was overthrown.

Iraq yesterday issued a special warning to the inhabitants of Ahwaz, the capital of the oil-rich southern province of Khuzestan, 60 miles from the frontier. They should all leave by midday on Sunday; otherwise they would expose themselves to the danger of air raids and missile attacks "around the city, Iraq planned to destroy them all."

On the ground, Iraq claimed that it had launched two small offensives, the first on Tuesday and the second yesterday, at unspecified locations east of Basra.

In a televised address to the Iranian people marking the

Iranian new year, Ayatollah Khomeini made no mention of the recent battle in the southern Iraqi marshlands or the terrible losses which the Iranians sustained. The war would go on, he said, unless the international community accepted Iran's right to punish the aggressor.

Iran, he said, had not stated the war and did not want war.

A NUMBER of Iranian soldiers injured by Iraqi mustard gas in the marsh battles were flying to Britain last night, the Iranian embassy said yesterday. They are being treated at a private hospital in London.

now or in the future. "But we don't want peace that is worse than war," he said. "Our people will not change our opinion under bombardment. Saddam Hussein should not commit these acts, and then the Iranian Government would not commit the ef-

ther. But if he does, then it is out of our hands." Tehran radio said yesterday that Iraqi aircraft attacked the western town of Ilam, killing or wounding a number of people.

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has urged Iraq to declare a three-month unilateral ceasefire in the war with Iran, diplomatic sources in Baghdad said yesterday.

The appeal was made in a message delivered to President Saddam by two senior Indian officials who arrived on Wednesday night at the start of a new, nonaligned peace mission, they said.

The official Iraqi news agency (INA), quoted Mr. Saddam as saying he would send an immediate reply containing "practical and constructive suggestions to facilitate the initiative." He stressed Iraq's willingness to reach "a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the principles of international law, mutual respect of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's affairs," INA said.

Border fights expected as Gulf forces recover

By David Fairhall

The next phase in the Iran-Iraq war is likely to be a sporadic series of border engagements as each side tries to recapture small pockets of territory held by the other, according to the latest British military intelligence assessment.

This would suit the Iraqis, who for the past two months have been attacking on a broad front in an apparent attempt to prevent Iran concentrating sufficient forces to break through and isolate their southern city of Basra.

It may be all the Iraqis are capable of for some time, while they recover from the failure of their latest offensive across the Hawizah marshes north of Basra.

That offensive, codenamed Fatim Zahra by the Iraqis, involved about 100,000 men, about a fifth of whom prob-

ably ended as casualties. They had to launch their attack through flooded marshes using boats, where tanks could not follow them, and with only limited artillery and air support.

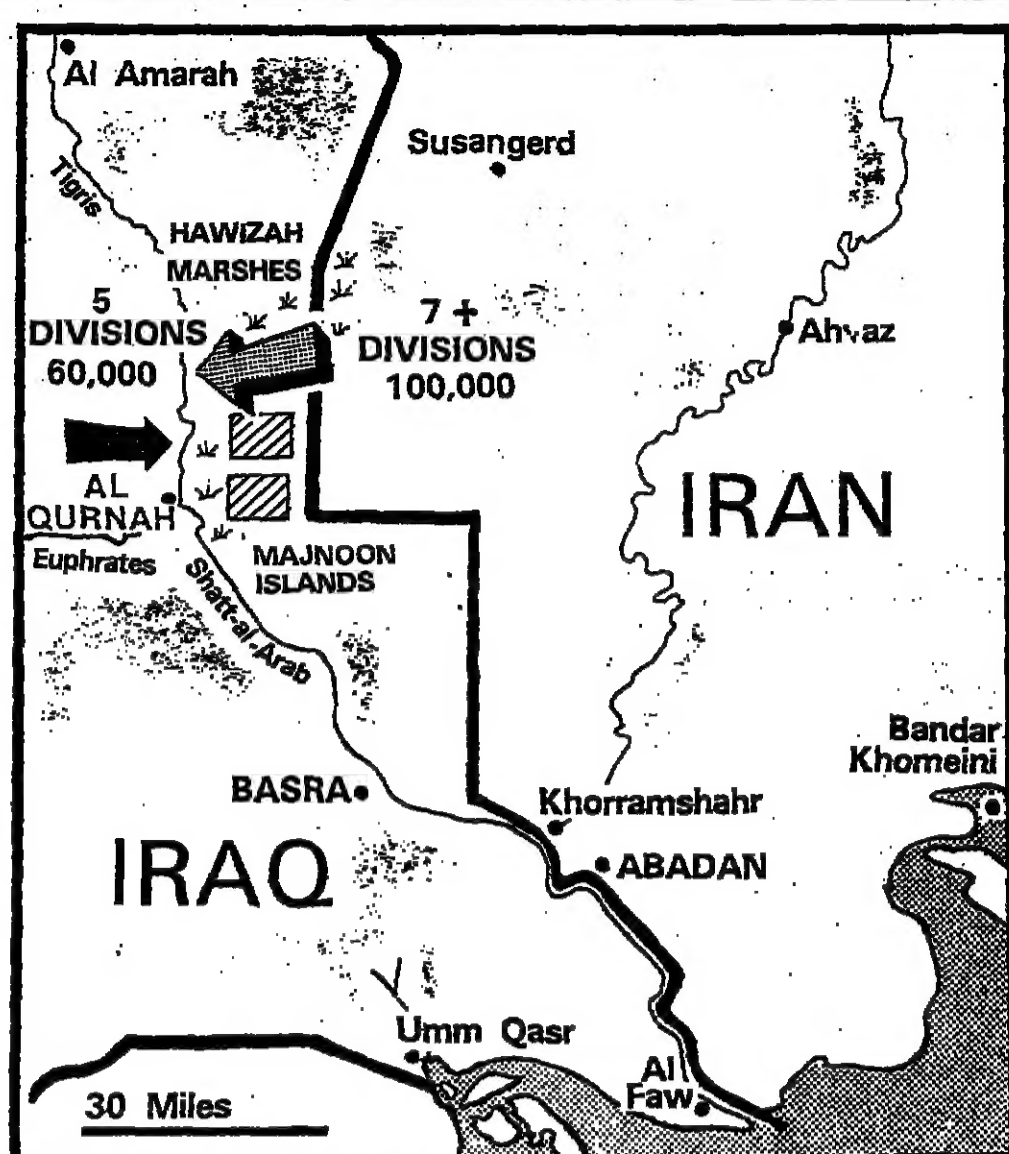
Even so they seem to have caught the Iraqis off balance, but those that reached the dry ground to the west, crossing the Tigris River and perhaps even straddling the main Baghdad-Basra highway, were annihilated by the defenders firepower from three directions.

The Iraqis have kept their foothold on the oil-bearing Majnoon Islands in the middle of the marshes, but they are no further towards their strategic objectives. They did not commit all the troops they have available on the southern front, which suggests either that they have other plans for the next few months or that this latest offensive was the result of desperate politi-

cal pressures than a serious military attempt to win the war.

The Iraqis used highly motivated revolutionary guards to lead their infantry assault. The Iraqis replied with units of the presidential guard and unusually heavy commitment of ground attack aircraft and helicopter gunships. The Iraqi air force is now engaged in the air on a scale that has not been seen so far—up to 300 sorties a day—a sign perhaps both of President Saddam Hussein's increasing desperation to end the war and a slowly increasing confidence among his pilots.

There is still no definite evidence as to whether the four recent explosions in Baghdad were caused by sabotage or by a surface-to-air missile (possibly Soviet Scuds, with a 300km range and 1,000 lbs warhead, secretly donated by Syria, Libya or North Korea).



Prison train: some of the 450 Iraqi prisoners of war arrive in Tehran

Baghdad harassed by Kurds

By Helga Graham

Iraq, already facing the onslaught of the Iranian army in the South, now has to cope with an intensification of the Kurdish guerrilla war in the North.

Autonomy negotiations between the Government and the Kurds broke down in January, since when the army reportedly has increased its presence in a policy of terror which, as in the Lebanon, seems only to be stiffening popular resistance.

Earlier this month, the guerrillas of the Kurdish Democratic Party attacked an Iraqi military convoy, at about 100 vehicles on the road between Zakho and Batufa, near the vital international highway that crosses Turkey and is now one of Iraq's main links with the outside world. According to the KDP, the Kurds killed all day, the Iraqis lost 24 soldiers killed, including two senior officers.

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Salvador ministers 'behind murders'

From Michael White in Washington

The men who killed Archbishop Oscar Romero, the outspoken Archbishop of San Salvador, in his own cathedral, were two exiled Nicaraguan guerrilla fighters who were paid \$120,000 in the Dorado American Hotel three days later, a former head of the Salvadorean intelligence agency claimed here yesterday.

Colonel Roberto Santivanez, a CIA-trained counter-insurgency specialist who had to leave the country after the 1979 military coup, will repeat detailed allegations against former military colleagues still holding important government posts in Short Circuit, a Channel Four film to be screened on Sunday night, the fifth anniversary of the archbishop's murder.

Naming up to 20 military and civilian figures, who were closely with the notorious death squads organised by his former pupil, was a Robert O'Ambusson. Colonel Santivanez accuses them of responsibility for the 1980 murder or subsequent cover-up of the archbishop, four American nuns and a prominent Christian Democratic politician as well as the 1981 killings of two US agricultural advisers, which, as in the Lebanon, seems only to be stiffening popular resistance.

The title, Short Circuit refers to the concept of having intermediaries between the host government, the CIA and the military who acted like fuses—sacrificed to prevent a short-circuit if anything goes wrong. He claims that US agencies, notably the CIA, were aware of prospective killings and failed to act, either before or after.

His allegations—previously made in less detail—were treated warily in Congress and the media—concern events after the assassination of El Salvador and are based on conversations with fellow-exiles and on the so-called O'Ambusson diary of 1980, a copy of which he acquired in the US. CIA involvement with the death squads was discovered by Senate and House intelligence committees last year in reports which the colonel's backers call a whitewash.

Colonel Santivanez says that a group called the Military Security Committee selected death squad targets. He alleges that its members in the early 1980s included two ministers in the Duarte Government and a colonel said to be on the CIA payroll. The key man in many of the killings is alleged to be another colonel, who was a veteran of Nicaragua's Somoza dictatorship.

Grenada tour stop

By Patrick Keatley, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Queen expects to visit Grenada in October during a Caribbean tour aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia. Her main port of call will be Nassau in the Bahamas where the prime ministers and presidents of the 45 Commonwealth countries will open their 1985 summit on October 18.

The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, will entertain the leaders aboard the yacht before they begin.

The newly-elected Prime Minister of Grenada, Mr. Blaise, and the Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, have invited the Queen to visit the island before she goes on to the Bahamas. It is believed that she has also received invitations from Barbados, Trinidad and the mainland territory of Belize, but the distances involved—more than 1,000 miles—would involve logistical problems if she were to sail to them all. The possibility of a flying visit to Belize, where 1,600 British troops are stationed, is being considered.

In 1983 Maurice Bishop's civilian regime of Grenada was toppled in a bloody coup by military leaders who were themselves arrested in the later invasion by US and Caribbean troops.

Neves on the mend

From Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

President Tancredo Neves, who underwent a second operation to remove an intestinal obstruction is now said to be recovering well in Brazil's General Hospital.

One of the doctors who operated on the president said he would be able to lead a completely normal life. A report in a newspaper here, that the first emergency operation on the eye of his inauguration had been to remove benign tumour, was denied by the presidential spokesman.

Also in Sao Paulo, at least nine prisoners are said to have died and many were injured during a rebellion by several thousand prisoners in the state penitentiary. Prisoners burned down part of the prison and wrecked cells. Police shock troops stormed the prison, firing and throwing teargas bombs.

VAT CHANGES

ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS, JOURNALS AND PERIODICALS.

The publication of advertisements in newspapers, journals or periodicals and associated services will be standard-rated from 1 May 1985.

Details are in Budget Notice 8/85.

REGISTRATION AND DEREGISTRATION.

From 20 March 1985 the VAT registration turnover limits have been raised to £19,500 a year or £6,500 in any one quarter.

These limits apply to everyone who is required to be registered on or after 20 March 1985.

If your estimated turnover (including VAT) will be £18,500 or less in the year beginning 1 June 1985 you can apply for deregistration from 1 June 1985 now.

If you have been registered for two years and your turnover (including VAT) has not exceeded £19,500 in each of those years and is unlikely to exceed that level in the year then beginning you can apply for deregistration after 1 June 1985.

Details of these changes are in Budget Notice 1/85 which also explains how to cancel your registration.

Further Information.

These Notices are available, with help if you need it, from local VAT offices. You will find the addresses in telephone directories under "Customs and Excise".

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Murdoch joins the movie moguls

From Alex Brummer in Washington

Mr. Rupert Murdoch's new career as a movie mogul at 20th Century Fox is symbolic of the ownership revolution sweeping through the American entertainment and communications industry.

Mr. Murdoch's News Corporation, with its \$250 million investment in Fox, joins a new generation of conglomerate studio owners including Gulf and Western Industries and Coca Cola, which have pushed aside the great Hollywood names of the past from Louis B. Mayer to David O. Selznick.

Like Capital City Communications, which this week launched a successful bid for the American Broadcasting Company, Mr. Murdoch's interests in the films appear more pecuniary than creative.

His interest in breaking into the movie business has been known for some time following his unsuccessful effort to take over Warner Communications last year. It is part of a strategy to have a vertically integrated communications group with a finger in all parts of the industry from newspapers to cable television, from magazines to film.

A Hollywood enterprise, particularly one with the rights to George Lucas's Star Wars trilogy, is clearly a tremendous asset for a communications company seeking to build a base in the highly competitive cable television race and in the burgeoning field of video cassettes. By putting so much new capital into 20th Century Fox, in exchange for a 50 per cent stake, the owner of the Times and News of the World has also assured that the huge funding is available for making new commercial film successes.

The independent film studio, like the enduring image of the all-powerful American television empire, has been changed for ever by this week's multi-billion dollar takeover of ABC. The studio, in which ABC, the most flashy of the networks, fell to a smaller virtually unknown

communications group, is symptomatic of the pressures which all the networks have been under since Senator Jesse Helms and the Fairness in Media group launched their effort to win control of CBS in January this year.

CBS, best known for its crisp news broadcasting, is in a state of virtual siege from the Helms Group and upstart Atlanta broadcaster, Mr. Ted Turner. The shares of RCA, the parent company of NBC, have been soaring in the last few days and the smaller

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Rupert Murdoch: aiming for multi-media control

Storer Communications Group, a large cable network, is being pursued with vigour by wealthy dissident investors.

It is clear that the days when the power brokers like William Paley of CBS, dominated broadcasting and national affairs are numbered. Like the British press barons and the old style Hollywood moguls these individuals are in danger of becoming extinct.

There are those who will argue loudly about the importance of Dallas and dynasty—CBS's and ABC's most successful creations—to the well-being of viewers around the world. Yet there are few Americans apart from the right-wing fringe headed by Senator Jesse Helms who

OVERSEAS NEWS

Emission limits and lead-free petrol planned for 1988

EEC agrees controls to cut pollution from cars

From Derek Brown in Brussels

A new generation of "clean" cars, burning lead-free petrol and producing much less atmospheric pollution than existing models, will be rolling on European roads by the end of the decade.

New strict limits on exhaust pollution were agreed in principle by EEC environment ministers yesterday after 18 hours of hard bargaining. The agreement, which should end years of political wrangling, is a timetable for the changes to be introduced between 1988 and 1994.

The EEC Environment Commissioner, Mr. Stanley Clinton Davis, said it was a "major national governments for committing to a common goal."

For a long time this issue has cast a miserable shadow over the Community. That shadow has been lifted this morning, he said.

The last and perhaps trickiest obstacle in the search for effective pollution controls remains to be negotiated. Between now and the end of June, experts must obtain exact figures for a new European emission standard which takes account of driving conditions and habits here, but produce the same pollution curbing effect as the tough US standards.

The European standard represents a concession by West Germany, which wanted US standards simply to be adopted wholesale by the EEC. Britain, France, and most other countries argued that American conditions, with large cars being driven at low speeds, could not be made to work in Europe.

Bonn has also given up its original demand for controls to be introduced on all new cars by the end of the 1980s. That would have obliged manufacturers to fit US-style catalytic converters to conventional exhaust systems. Britain led the opposition, with its minister, Mr. William Waldegrave, arguing that the catalysts are expensive, fuel-hungry, and unreliable.

West Germany has now accepted that, except on larger cars with engines of more than two litres, the new standards can be reached by newer technology — almost certainly the "lean-burn" engine of the kind which Ford UK will produce at Bridgend from autumn this year.

Despite these concessions, West Germany has emerged the real winner from the long and technical tussle. Driven by domestic political outrage over the widespread acid rain damage to German forests, Bonn has, in effect, hounded the slow-moving Community into taking effective action.

West Germany has also won the right to introduce modest incentives to buyers, from this summer, to buy "clean" cars.

The directive adopted yesterday is still subject to final approval by the Danish and Greek governments, whose ministers did not attend the meeting. It is also a "permissive" directive, which means that countries could, if they wish, simply ignore it.

In reality, manufacturers will be compelled by market forces to make "clean" cars. Those countries adopting the new standards — the vast majority, if not all — will simply refuse registration for non-complying vehicles. "If you want to sell cars, you will have to produce them to the new standards," said one Commission official.

The ministers also approved EEC legislation compelling member states to ensure that lead-free petrol, as used by cars with lean-burn engines or catalysed exhausts, is available by October 1989.

The complex formulas for the new emission standards will seek to reduce sharply the amount of toxic carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides pumped into the atmosphere by conventional engines. The nitrous oxides — "nox" — are held by West Germany to be a principal component of acid rain.

British ministers have stressed the environmental health benefits of an early introduction of lead-free petrol. See, for example, page 21, Anthony Tucker, page 21.

Iberian talks hit snag

From our own Correspondent in Brussels

Foreign Ministers of the EEC and their top officials were bogged down last night in their talks with Spain and Portugal. Officials said that although the outline of accession terms was already agreed, ministers faced a long list of technical problems, mostly to do with fisheries and agriculture.

Throughout yesterday — the fifth day of the accession talks — the Italian President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Giulio Andreotti, strove in vain to eliminate the outstanding technical differences. He saw delegations individually as well as inviting them to make concessions in round table talks. Last night, however, there were still hopes of a settlement and it looked as if the record-breaking council might have to be recalled for yet more talks.

In Paris, the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, gave a firm "no" yesterday to the idea of a two-speed European Community and said the Treaty of Rome should not be discarded in favour of a fresh plan for union.

Speaking to the French Institute for International Relations, he stressed Britain's commitment to Europe.



The French Prime Minister, Mr. Laurent Fabius, tries on for size the cockpit of a Mirage 2000 fighter aircraft, during a visit to the St Dizier air force base as a guest of the Defence Minister, Mr. Charles Hernu.

Paris to detail polling reforms within 2 weeks

From Campbell Page in Paris

The Government has promised to announce by Easter its controversial proposals to introduce a degree of proportional representation in next year's parliamentary elections.

A projection published in the magazine *Le Point*, and based on voting intentions expressed during the recent local elections, shows that the left would be crushed under the present two-round system. President Mitterrand would have to try to fulfil the remaining two years of his presidential mandate with a National Assembly in which the opposition RPR and UDF held 333 seats, his own Socialist Party 128 seats and the Communists 13 seats.

The Socialists are being criticised in general for wanting to change the present system and in particular for having waited for the local elections to provide detailed information about the mood of the electorate and about ways in which the system could be changed in the party's own interest.

Mr. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, in a television broadcast on Wednesday evening, said that the Government would decide on the changes within the first week of April at the latest.

He denied that the government was doing things at the last moment, and said that in the last 100 years, with the possible exception of 1923, electoral changes had never been decided so far in advance of a parliamentary election.


Two former prime ministers in the ranks of the opposition, Mr. Jacques Chirac and Mr. Raymond Barre, issued a joint statement defending the present system.

The extreme right National Front, which won 11 per cent of the vote in the European elections last year and 8.8 per cent in the recent local elections, does not share the reservations of the conventional right about proportionality because of the obvious benefits to a party of its size.

Other projections show that a fully proportional system would deprive the RPR and UDF of an absolute majority next year unless they allied their 203 seats with the National Front's 42.


A mixed system of majority voting in departments with less than 540,000 inhabitants and proportionality in the large departments would give the UDF and RPR 276 seats and the National Front 18, while on the left the Socialists would have 150 seats, the Communists 27 and the Ecologists three.

SELF-EMPLOYED? NO PENSION WITH YOUR JOB? KEEP THIS PAGE.




"I hope to get a £65,927 lump sum and a pension of £19,520 a year!"

Mr J. Newsagent, Dover. Aged 34.
Mr J. would pay £40 (£28 net with tax relief at 30%) a month over 31 years.



"After 23 years in the plan I could get a lump sum of £43,206 and a pension of £12,793 a year!"

Mr L. Self-employed quantity surveyor, Wrexham. Aged 42.
Mr L. would pay £70 (£49 net with tax relief at 30%) a month.



"I never got round to saving for a pension — we try to get by on £57 a week for two."

Mr D. Retired Plumber, Durham City. Aged 70.
The state pension is currently less than £60 a week for a married couple.

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In addition, your contributions go into a special Sun Alliance Fund which is free of most UK taxes, which means your investment can grow much faster.

Naturally, your pension cheque is subject to income tax, but if you decide you want a lump sum on retirement it is paid entirely tax-free. (About one-third of your benefits can be taken in this way).

*Your earnings are defined as gross earned income less certain deductions like business expenses and capital allowances. You do not have to deduct any personal allowances. (If you were born before 1st January 1934 a higher limit than 17½% applies.)

The figures shown in the above examples are projected benefits assuming current bonus and annuity rates continue. Future bonuses depend on profits yet to be earned and so cannot be guaranteed. Annuity rates will depend mainly on interest rates prevailing when the pension is taken.

Furthermore, should you die before retirement all your contributions would be refunded free of income tax and capital gains tax.

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2. I plan to invest £ each month. (ie £30, £50, £70, £100... or any other amount you wish to choose).
or I plan to invest £ each year. (MINIMUM £100 p.a.)

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SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

30/FIDE

Geneva gets down to real business

By Hella Pick

The US and the Soviet Union have decided that the time for preliminary talks at Geneva arms talks is over. Delegates agreed yesterday that detailed work should begin next week on the three key issues on their difficult and complex agenda: intermediate-range nuclear weapons, strategic missiles and space weapons.

After yesterday's full session, an unwieldy affair with almost two dozen delegates on each side, negotiators announced that they had agreed to activate the three working groups set up to handle the agenda.

The decision suggests that the Soviet Union's bitter reaction to President Reagan's successful drive to fund more MX missiles is not being allowed to interfere with the negotiations, at least with their mechanics. It also shows that the two superpowers prefer not to get bogged down over their profound differences on space weapons and that, instead, are at least willing to explore each other's positions more carefully.

The three working groups are headed by senior, experienced negotiators on both sides. Mr. Max Kampelman, the head of the US team, who also leads the group on space, will face Mr. Yuli Kvitinsky, who is widely known in the West for his "walk in the woods" in 1983.

Mr. Viktor Karpov, the Soviet delegation chief, will lead the Soviet side in the group handling strategic arms curbs.

Each of the three groups are due to meet twice a week, probably for three to four weeks. There would then be a further plenary meeting to underline that the three issues are inter-related, and to assess progress or otherwise.

The talks will then adjourn for a month or so for the two sides to digest the negotiations so far.

After that, the two countries aim to establish a pattern where the talks will be in session for two-month periods, followed by a similar adjournment.

The Reagan Administration hopes that interim agreements will emerge, and that the Soviet Union will not maintain its stand that there can only be an overall package involving all three elements.

Stockholm hopes are growing

Stockholm: The 35-nation European disarmament conference ends its fifth session today amid optimism among Nato delegates that an agreement on measures to reduce the risk of conventional war may at last be taking shape.

"There has been some progress this session," the French delegate, Mr. Paul Gascignard, said yesterday. "The realistic, less political and more to the point."

He and other delegates from Nato and neutral countries said they hoped that negotiations on drafting a concluding document could begin in the autumn.

Discussion of confidence-building measures aimed at reducing the risk of war breaking out in Europe by accident or miscalculation has become more detailed and specific since the setting up of two working groups in December.

Despite the improved atmosphere, however, East and West remain far apart in their basic approach to the conference, which opened in January, 1984. — Reuters.

Greeks in crisis over election

Athens: Greece faced a possible constitutional crisis yesterday after the Conservative Opposition refused to accept a parliamentary decision on the procedure for electing a new head of state.

Parliament last night authorised the acting President Mr. Ioannis Alevras, a prominent Socialist, who is speaker of the House, to cast what could be a crucial vote when deputies elect a new head of state later this month.

New Democracy, the conservative party, walked out and said it would not recognise the Socialist candidate, Mr. Christos Sartzetakis, as President if Mr. Alevras's vote determined the outcome.

The government yesterday dismissed New Democracy's claim that Mr. Alevras was constitutionally barred from voting. "If you do not accept (last night's) decision, you do not accept the State of Democracy," a spokesman told foreign reporters.

Mr. Sartzetakis, a judge, was chosen by the Socialist Government after it decided, in a surprise move, not to back the pro-Western Mr. Konstantinos Karamanlis for another term. — Reuters.

Opposition leaders claim polling is rigged

Ershad heads for overwhelming vote of confidence

From Eric Silver in Dhaka

President Hussein Mohamed Ershad was heading last night for an overwhelming vote of confidence in the Bangladesh referendum, but foreign correspondents who toured polling stations throughout the country yesterday found the official turnout figures unconvincing.

With about one-third of the votes counted, the election commission announced that 4,235,190 had supported the President's policies to 199,585 against. This represented a "yes" vote of 95.5 per cent of the votes cast and a turnout estimated at more than 70 per cent.

It was a contest without opposition and with none of the bustle and exuberance of a conventional election day. Voting was steady in the rural areas, which have benefited from President Ershad's decentralisation of authority and hope to benefit further. But there was a distinct lack of en-

thusiasm in the towns, especially years of martial law.

In many of the villages we visited the most exciting event of the day was the arrival of our airforce helicopter, which drew Bengali crowds from every corner of the parched landscape.

There were queues of voters in some villages, but over-enthusiastic local officials had mobilised dozens of under-age boys to impress the visitors.

Although President Ershad had promised a clean poll, there were ample opportunities for rigging and district administrators had every incentive to gain favour by delivering a high turnout.

Voters were not required to identify themselves and, contrary to the normal practice in the subcontinent, their thumbs were not marked with indelible ink to prevent multiple voting. One Ershad supporter in Dhaka boasted to foreign correspondents that he had voted 36 times.

In Ranpur, General Ershad's birthplace, correspondents found 125 consecutive names

ticked off on the register, by 10.30 am in one polling station.

One man at a polling booth in Dhaka said that he was paid to stand in a queue of voters. During voting there was one death reported in Chittagong. Police said a soldier accidentally fired his rifle outside a polling booth killing a bystander.

In Dhaka, bomb attacks killed a security man and injured several others before voting began.

Police said the dead security guard was hit by a petrol bomb in central Dhaka.

Hundreds of firecrackers exploded last night across the country and eyewitnesses said many people were injured in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna.

Police said it was the work of dissidents trying to disrupt the referendum which has been denounced by their leaders as a ploy to legalise the martial law government.

The Opposition has called a general strike to protest at the referendum and initial voter turnout was low.



Firemen struggle to contain a fire in Ahmedabad, where rioting between Hindus and Muslims has claimed 10 lives in three days. Arson has been widespread

Military security boss for Pakistan

From Alex Brodie in Islamabad

Two days before the inauguration of Pakistan's first elected parliament in eight years, General Zia has made his first major appointment — a general as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau.

In previous civilian administrations the intelligence chief has reported directly to the prime minister. It seems clear that in the forthcoming administration, the general in charge will report to President Zia, rather than to the civilian prime minister who will emerge from Parliament.

General Zia's nominee for prime minister is Mohammed Khan Junejo, a landlord from Sind province and nominee of the Pashtun Muslim League, one of the two parties which has stuck with General Zia throughout his regime and which contested last month's election boycotted by the mainstream political parties.

Despite apparently having to take Mr Junejo over his first choice, another Shai landowner, Elahi Bux Sumroo, the overall picture from General Zia's point of view is not unfavourable. His Cabinet ministers who contested elections to the National Assembly and lost were dispensable.

Democrat proposes aid for rebels

From Mark Tran in Washington

AN influential congressional sub-committee, under its activist chairman, Mr Stephen Solarz (Democrat, New York) has proposed \$5 million to non-Communist Kampuchean rebels fighting the Vietnamese.

The aid would be funneled through Thailand and the guerrillas could spend the money as they see fit. The measure was approved by six votes to three by the sub-committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. Mr Solarz said he was responding to a public request last month from the Association of South-East Asian Nations for help "to compel the Vietnamese to come to the negotiating table."

Usually it is the administration that comes to Congress requesting funds. In this case, Mr Solarz — a liberal Democrat who opposes US funding for the Nicaraguan rebels — is pressing the money into administration palms.

He said the \$5 million would have no military effect and would give rise to unrealistic expectations of American support among the resistance fighters. The Administration itself, despite its talk of supporting freedom fighters around the world, has blushed from supplying military aid to non-Communist groups.

While it has pumped money to the Afghan resistance and the Nicaraguan contras, it has only supplied humanitarian aid to the Kampuchean resistance.

When pressed on this issue, the State Department's top official for Asian affairs, Mr Paul Wolfowitz, recently said he did not want to be party to an aid effort that was subject to the vagaries of Congress. The Administration, however, feels that the Asian countries themselves can come up with the money easily enough. After the Vietnam war there was little incentive to get militarily involved in South-East Asia again, albeit indirectly.

The sub-committee's decision has to be approved by the full Committee on Foreign Affairs and then by the whole House.

Soviet envoy shot dead

From Ajay Bose in New Delhi

A Soviet embassy official was shot dead yesterday by two gunmen on a motor cycle near his embassy here. Police have launched a hunt for the killers.

The gunmen fired five shots from an automatic pistol as his car slowed at a roundabout. Police said that Mr Victor Khitichenko, aged 48, a senior engineer in the embassy's economic division, died on the spot.

Witnesses said the gunmen were "of Asian origin."

Police launched the hunt for the killers within 30 minutes of the attack. In the Indian capital's diplomatic enclave, homes and hotels where Afghan and Iranian students live were searched.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said that police earlier this week raided the offices of Afghan, Iranian and Pakistani refugees and political exile groups as part of a search for another Soviet diplomat missing here since Sunday.

Mr Khitichenko's wife, Nina, and his Indian driver, escaped with only minor cuts from flying glass as the windows were shattered.

The murder came only days after the mysterious disappearance of Mr Igor Gheja, a third secretary in the embassy's information department, which has rocked the Soviet diplomatic community.

Police yesterday sealed airports, railway stations and bus depots and checked people leaving the capital.

The spot where the shooting happened in the central Chanakyapuri district where most foreign missions are situated, was cordoned off and tracker-dogs were brought in as part of the hunt for the killers.

PTI said that four 7.65mm calibre bullets, fired through the side windows and rear of the car, hit the envoy in the head. The assassination "had all the touches of professionalism," PTI said.

PTI reported that officers of India's intelligence and security services yesterday joined police in their search for Mr Gheja, aged 37, who vanished after an early morning walk in a Delhi park on Sunday. His car was found nearby.

Neither man appear on Delhi's current diplomatic list. We are not claiming responsibility for the murder.

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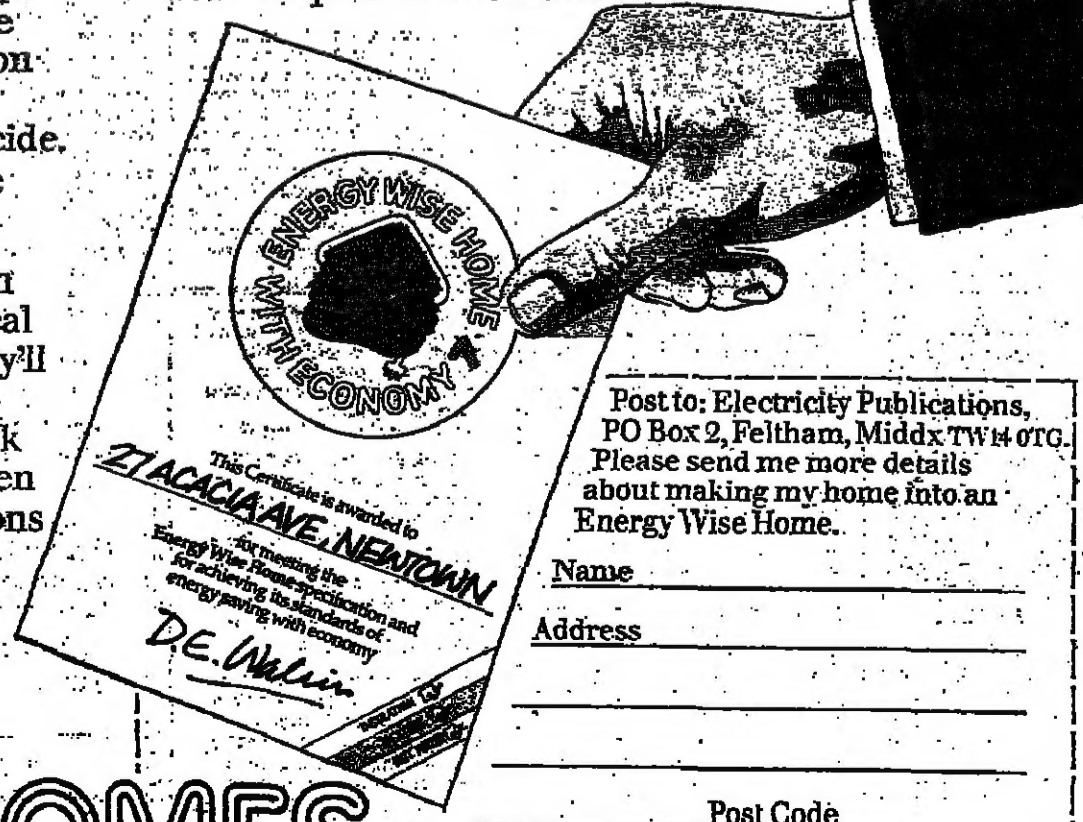
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Get in touch with your local Electricity Board. Ask for an Energy Wise Home survey and it will all be arranged — free of

charge, at a time that's convenient for you, and certainly without any obligation on your part. Or send in the coupon for full details.



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The Electricity Council, England and Wales.

Rivalries hold up hostages' freedom

From T. R. Lanzner in Jolo, Philippines

MILITARY authorities believe they have finally trapped Muslim rebels holding three foreigners hostage on this southern island after more than two weeks of sporadic clashes.

It is claimed that the military operation, which has left at least 10 soldiers wounded and an estimated 20 civilians dead and an unknown number of rebel casualties, was launched after bickering among negotiators seeking the hostages' release.

An American writer, Mr John Robinson, and a West German architect, Mr Helmut Herbst, were abducted last November, and a Japanese freelance journalist, Shigehiro Ishikawa, was taken captive after apparently attempting to make contact with the rebels earlier this month.

The kidnappers, members of the Moro National Liberation Front, initially set a \$25,000 ransom for the first men seized, but later dropped the demand. They have demanded \$150,000 for the release of the Japanese.

A plan for handing over the American and German hostages at the end of February to the Pakistani ambassador, failed when he could not produce official accreditation. Another release was foiled on March 4, according to Crown Prince Ismail Kiram, of the island's Sultanate of Sulu, when soldiers swooped.

"They will go to the length of sacrificing the life of our soldiers to satisfy the whims of some political leaders," Prince Kiram said. He claimed that the military operation was launched to ruin negotiations with the rebels, because of local political rivalries.

Jolo was the scene of some of the most intense fighting between government forces and secessionist Muslim rebels between 1972 and 76. In 1974, much of the chief town, Jolo, was levelled by air raids and naval bombardments as rebels overran government garrisons and seized it.

Military sources claim that the thousands of trained guerrillas have landed on Jolo and Mindanao earlier this year from training bases in the Malaysian state of Sabah on Borneo island, which is less than six hours away by speedboat.

However, local people with regular contacts with rebel forces on Jolo say that nowhere near this number arrived, but admit that there has been a small but steady flow of weapons to the island over the last year. Estimates of armed guerrilla strength on the 100-square mile island range from 5,000 to 7,000.

Fighting them are more than 2,000 troops equipped with helicopters and armoured cars, backed by thousands of local militia men.

Over the past eight years, government and rebel forces have maintained a posture of armed non-aggression, with troops keeping to main towns and garrisons, and guerrillas keeping to country areas.

Most of the soldiers stationed from Luzon province 500 miles to the north, who neither speak the local dialect or care much for Islam. But the High Imam of Sulu, says the struggle can no longer really be considered a religious battle.

These rebels, unless they are attacked, won't just fight anybody. But if you invade their areas, they will do battle. In these military operations, many homes were burned, so there is anger in their hearts."

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH



Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
An invitation to doctors and volunteers with an interest in the effects of chemical warfare.

In violation of all humanitarian principles and recognised international conventions including the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the regime of Iraq has once again deployed chemical gas in its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and turned down the request of the Secretary General of the United Nations to desist from the use of chemical gas and bombs on the basis of the international prohibition of chemical weapons.

We hereby invite enquiries from all those familiar with these substances and experienced in treating injuries of this nature, or those doctors prepared to treat the victims of chemical warfare on a humanitarian basis in this country or in Iran.

We welcome queries at:

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London
27 Frimley Gate, London SW7
Telephone: 01-584 5151, Extension: 24



THIRD COLUMN

Shots in the sex war

"KILL A SEX tourist a day" was the recent slogan of one of the Philippine guerrilla movements, and it had a major and adverse effect on Japanese tourism to the Philippines. Apparently without a shot being fired (though with a number of hotels being burnt down in mysterious circumstances), advertised trips to the massage parlours of Manila slumped dramatically. But the Japanese soon got round the threat. Large numbers of Filipino women were imported to Japan and lodged in a sin city within easy reach of Tokyo.

The sudden collapse of conventional male sex tourism in the Philippines is a phenomenon that exists over much of the Third World. Nor are radical guerrilla movements the only ones to complain. Even quite conservative sectors of the urban middle class and some well-off rural dwellers (themselves often beneficiaries of such development) find themselves appalled at the price being paid for social and economic change. When revolution comes to the Philippines, the degradation and corruption associated with occupation and development will have played a powerful role in bringing it about.

For the Philippines are triply plagued. First, there are the vast United States military bases, the legacy of nearly 100 years of colonial occupation and now a centre of America's imperial role in Asia and the Pacific. The area around Subic Bay — permanent home of the US Seventh Fleet — and around the Clark US Air Force Base, are red hot districts on the grand scale.

Secondly, there is the influx of tourists, chiefly from Japan, for whom hundreds of massage parlours and brothels are waiting in the principal towns of the archipelago. And, thirdly, there are the free trade zones where thousands of Filipino women are employed in the assembly of electronic gadgets — to utilize the senses of consumers thousands of miles away. It is often this latter form of exploitation of women that causes more concern in Third World countries than more blatant examples like prostitution.

The sale of local women for sex with foreigners is an obvious subject for nationalist agitation, but it is not exactly new — though the scale, the overtone, the flaunting of it, probably is. But the way in which women are dragged into the capitalist market via the magnet of the free trade zones is dramatically new and a vivid affront to the values of a more archaic society.

The cash pours in, left, and life-saving aid finds its way to the needy

The unprecedented public response to the famines in Africa has produced enormous sums of money for the aid agencies. But, as Michael Simmons reports, they are feeling the strain at a time when the political temperature of the aid industry is rising

Cash flow turns into a torrent

AGAINST the rumblings of a distant war against famine, Britain's aid and development agencies compete strenuously for funds. In the five months since last October they have collected as much as they did in the whole of the last financial year. Much of it to feed the children of an Ethiopian regime which many Western Governments have anathematised.

The influx of funds on an unprecedented scale has led to new and unquantifiable strains on the agencies, as well as a certain pent-up competition for the paying British conscience. The time has come when the agencies are being asked to change, or are in the process of changing, their director, and Oxfam, the biggest, has created a new director, appointing an external officer as deputy director.

Thousands of pounds have been spent on advertising, not simply to bring in funds but also to publicise the agency's work and computer use. Organisations which until now thrived on mainly middle-class preoccupations with aid and Third World problems, now find they are appealing to all social classes. They also find they are looking for skills previously unsought in an essentially charitable and voluntary-run context.

The influx of funds has led to a new competition with donors of lesser known, even unrecognised, agencies for funds and to organisations like Help the Aged, apparently with energy and resources to spare beyond what it does at home, joining in. In its campaign the sweet old dear with a stick and wearing a woolly cardigan has been replaced by a

wretched and emaciated elderly African or Asian. With so much more money to spend, and with more clout to argue how aid and development money should be spent, the agencies inevitably find themselves rubbing the Charity Commissioners and governments and occasionally international organisations — the wrong way when it comes to the grey and thorny areas of politics and political activity.

Last week, as Mrs Thatcher and her entourage flew to Moscow and the Chernobyl funeral, she will have had little time to study the petition — supported by 700,000 signatures — handed in at Downing Street on Tuesday morning. Given the anonymous statements from successive aid Ministers, she will probably have had little inclination to accept the message in the accompanying letter.

This accused her government of an "inadequate" response to the African famine, of misdirecting aid resources, failing to take a lead when one was desperately needed, giving less than Norway or Holland or even Nigeria — to such a worthwhile organisation as the International Fund for Agriculture Development, in a rare public act of collaboration, the letter was signed by the directors of the country's seven leading aid and development agencies.

Politics, of course, means all things to all bureaucrats. Even the Charity Commissioners can be momentarily blind or deaf. Clearly, as almost all agency people agree, giving a hungry child something to eat is just as solid as withholding something to eat. Building a well for one village means not only upsetting the local power structure; it can also mean not building one for the equally needy village further off.

Last week in Geneva, a peculiarly UN event took place. Ministers, and a sprinkling of statesmen, came together under the benign eye of their host, the Secretary-General himself, to discuss the Africa famine. One by one, they delivered formal speeches, sometimes offering money, and then caught the next plane home, the agencies' reaction included anger as well as cynicism. "It was," said one representative, with long experience, "a political charade."



place. Ministers, and a sprinkling of statesmen, came together under the benign eye of their host, the Secretary-General himself, to discuss the Africa famine. One by one, they delivered formal speeches, sometimes offering money, and then caught the next plane home, the agencies' reaction included anger as well as cynicism. "It was," said one representative, with long experience, "a political charade."

Away from the rostrum, the same conference gave delegates and officials scope to express their views of the agencies — or Non-Governmental Organisations as they call them. At one level, a UN official could say that while "too many people were going round Africa with solutions to problems they do not understand" it was also true that the NGOs were playing a most important part. They are great, he said, "because they are small. They can get through to the villages, where

it matters, and be effective." At another level, the Ethiopian Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation, Dawit Wolde-Giorgis, seized his opportunity to argue about priorities with the U.S. Vice-President Bush, who had dropped into Ethiopia to see how things were before making his contribution to the debate, and Mr Dawit suggested that War on Want, which is operating in Tigre, was "a war on Ethiopia organisation, helping bandits and terrorists."

While that argument was going on, and as War on Want marshalled its by now well-rehearsed responses, Oxfam's chairman, Chris Barber, until recently financial director of Associated Biscuits, was at the House of Commons addressing the All-Party Group on Development. Starting from the (controversial) premise that probably no-one in Britain was better qualified than Oxfam to speak for the world's poor,

and buttressing his arguments with references to over 30 field officers at work in 75 countries, helped at home by more than 20,000 volunteers, he argued through case studies and factually backed debating points, that Britain should do more and should urge the Americans to do more in Central America, South Africa, Kampuchea, and elsewhere.

"If the children of people now in extreme poverty are to live in peace with our children and grand-children," he told the MPs, "we have to be serious ourselves. It's getting late."

The MPs, predictably, were mixed in their response, not without agitation and some discomfort at the government's record. But civil servants who had burned the midnight oil at the Overseas Development Administration down the road to prepare the minister's speech for delivery in Geneva, did not even know Mr Barber was in town.

British agency impatience is not directed solely at British government efforts. The EEC bureaucracy, which can take months to solve a problem that should have been solved yesterday, is a regular target. So, too, increasingly, is the bureaucracy — especially "in the field" — of the United Nations itself.

Seasoned agency officials are appalled, for instance, that the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome is barely on speaking terms with the World Food Programme, which is literally next door. They are angry that the UN, which has the machinery and the people, was so late in appointing an emergency co-ordinator for Ethiopia, that it has yet to name one for Sudan, that it has given no (published) thought to appointing one for Chad or Mozambique.

THE FIVE LEADING AID AGENCIES

Agency	Director	Full-time staff	Supporters or helpers	Voluntary income This year last year (est'd)
Oxfam	Guy Stringer	about 700	20,000	\$40m. plus £23.9m.
*Save the Children	Nicholas Hinton	860 (incl. part-time)	818 branches	£38m. £16.5m.
Christian Aid	Martin Bax	about 160	3,000 cttees	£20m. £11.2m.
Cafod	Julian Filochowski	36	700 support groups	£12m. \$6m.
War on Want	George Galloway	16	6,000	\$6m. plus £1.7m.

*Roughly two-thirds of Save the Children's income is devoted to work overseas

THAILAND

Wat a way to reform

Nicholas Tapp on how Buddhism has lost its traditional place in society

BUDDHISM in Thailand is in crisis. Since the fall of American-backed governments in Laos and Kampuchea in 1975, serious divisions have emerged in the Thai Sangha, or Order of Monks, about the traditional duties of monks to become involved in society.

No longer is the monk at the centre of village affairs, functioning as a village doctor and teacher in the rural areas. The village war or temple has lost much of its crucial importance. Ordination still provides the only route to literacy and social mobility, but under pressures of increasing rural indebtedness and rapid urbanisation, the traditional duties of monks to the wat and supporting monks through donations of food have become irrelevant to many urbanised Thais.

returned the military to power, Pura Kittivutha, a notorious right-wing monk accused of supporting armed dissidents in Laos and Kampuchea, broadcast over army radio that "killing Communists was not a sin." But with the collapse of the Communist party of Thailand's armed rural struggle, a reaction has set in against using Buddhism for political ends, and a revision against using violence.

One of the most respected abbots in Thailand today has refused to have anything to do with modern development. Preaching an austere form of meditation, the 80-year-old Ven. Buddhadasa founded a forest retreat over 50 years ago in the southern district of Chaiya. Here the ordination hall, on which so much expense is usually lavished, has been replaced by a simple hillside, with rocks for seats. His visions of a society founded on the principles of a "Buddhist socialism" at one time earned him the disapproval of the ruling council of elders, which supervised Sangha affairs in association with government departments.

The Sangha's development is still counterbalanced by the autonomy of local temples, which has allowed grass-roots movements involving monks in local development to flourish. Abbot Chamroon's temple of Tam Krabok, for example,

has become Thailand's most famous drug treatment and rehabilitation centre, using a combination of Buddhist meditation, steam-bath massage, and meditation. Other temples have become orphanages, schools, and bone-setters.

But the abbots of such temples contrast strongly with others who concentrate on converting lavish gifts (believed to confer merit on the giver) into ever more resplendent pavilions.

But a new social role will have to be found if Buddhism is to survive the impact of modern development. This is the view of Sajak Srivaraksa, a devout Buddhist, and of such organisations as the Thai Inter-Religious Commission on Development, which have sought to involve monks in local community projects.

print, and video. For the first time in Thailand women, who occupy a subordinate position in Buddhism, have been ordained as novices at this centre.

POETRY

Rooted in reality

Victoria Brittain on a powerful Caribbean poet gripped by her muse

"I'm a poet, but I didn't choose poetry — it chose me... it's a dominating, intrusive tyrant. It's something I have to do — a wicked force."

That force captured Lorna Goodison's first British audience last month and brought a much bigger one this week in London's annual International Black Fair. Next week she reads again with two other women poets from the Caribbean — Grace Nichols and Merle Collins — in a series of evenings where writers describe how they came to be writers.



Lorna Goodison — poetry chose me

The three are among the women poets who have taken by storm the previously all-male Caribbean poetry scene dominated by the great figures of Martin Carter, E.D. Brathwaite, and Linton Kwesi Johnson.

Lorna Goodison writes and teaches in Jamaica where economic crisis, migration, and political violence are the stuff of everyday life. It is a time of a great flowering of poetry, especially among women.

are among her inspirations. But some Western radical feminist writing trends puzzle her.

"The right-to-work movement had us rolling on the floor at home with laughter — Caribbean women would like the right sometimes not to work. Jamaica's maternal society and irregular family patterns give us a different set of problems from the rigid nuclear family ones — on the contrary, we'd like some of these guys to get responsible. You can get tired of the strong black woman image."

But such women are nonetheless her inspiration. Her first success in London was reading a poem about a police raid on Winnie Mandela's home in which the police "arrested the bedspread." The audience in Britain rose cheering to their feet. That poem and another, set in an airport in South Africa, are in the collection to be published shortly by New Beacon Books. Her first collection, Tamarind Season, was published by the Institute of Jamaica.

Coming back to London this year after ten years away she is stunned by an unexpected change. "This town, or at least Brixton where I stay, has an energy and creative vitality that wasn't there before."

NORTH/SOUTH

Mohamed's stunner

MOHAMED Amin, the Kenyan photographer who made the famous BBC film on Ethiopia, has made an hour-long documentary on half a dozen African countries. It promises to be another watershed in public consciousness about the "African Calvary" as he has called the film. It starred silence followed the preview to journalists and businessmen. It will shortly be shown on television here, and world-wide.



Mohamed Amin — moving the aid business

Edward Heath, introducing the film in the plush premises of the Confederation of British Industry (lent free), said how "shaming" it was that four years after the UN's Water Decade, millions of deaths from starvation it took TV pictures to move governments.

In the film Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Willy Brandt, Presidents Kaunda and Nyerere speak forcibly for a real change in political will to head off the spectre of as many as 150 million deaths from starvation in Africa.

Mohamed's camera lingers on the faces of grieving mothers whose children have just died in their arms. In juxtaposition is the cadenced face of Edward Saemba, head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, who forecast the disaster in May, 1983, but met a Western consensus to ignore him.

World Vision's director, just back from Ethiopia, gave a sombre warning that "the problem is getting away from us... more people are registered as needing food in Ethiopia now than there were in October, and in Sudan and Chad the emergency is racing out of control. There is a fundamental, evil imbalance in this world which has to be changed, and public opinion putting pressure on governments is the only force which can prevent these deaths increasing year after year."

THE achievements of Michael X, as well as writing, food, and African rhythms will be the predominant themes this weekend of the last three days of London's fourth international book festival.

The book fair itself (full title: The International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books) runs until tomorrow evening at the Camden Centre, London NW 1. Tonight at the St Matthews Meeting Place, Brixton, a forum of six Black writers and thinkers will be discussing Michael X.

Richard Gott

Victoria Brittain, Third World Review editor

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STAGE GUARDIAN

Michael Billington reports on what Stephen Sondheim's latest musical means for a hard-pressed Broadway

By George, he's got it

"AMERICAN theatre is dead as a doornail." So said Peter Sellers, director of the American National Theatre in Washington, last weekend. He overstates presumably in order to establish himself as a cultural saviour. But a visit to Broadway certainly reveals a good deal of gloom on the Great White Way.

Few of this season's 21 new productions have lasted; and that has caused panic in the annual tribal ritual, the unveiling of a new hit musical, has not so far taken place. Hopes are now pinned on Grind, a big burlesque musical directed by Harold Prince, that has been having legal and artistic problems on the road. Prince has been quoted as saying that if it flops, then it could be a terminal point for the American musical.

But although Broadway epitomises the worldwide crisis in commercial theatre, it is a shade early to pronounce the funeral rites. I found three productions that would grace any theatrical capital. And, even more surprising, the audience's intelligence, and is playing to near capacity. It is Stephen Sondheim's Sunday in the Park With George.

It is set in a palm-fringed house in the Hollywood Hills. Eddie, a divorced casting director, and his business partner Mickey, Eddie gets through his days on a diet of grass, coke and booze, dependent on the garage out of which he makes living plays power games, with his friends and spends many of his nights alone railing narcissistically at the tube.

Eddie talks a mixture of psycho-babble and sense, unable to acknowledge his implicit homosexuality, and has the uneasy feeling that, in typical showbiz jargon, we are living through "the spin-off from what was once prime time life."

Rabe's play is about many things: degradation, drugs, tacky showbiz, fractured friendship, brutalised sex. But what is astonishing (and what I suspect disconcerts all Broadway audiences) is that Rabe doesn't moralise, he simply presents Eddie and his friends as they are.

Even more surprising is that Rabe shows these sad Hollywood bohemians as living in a world without values yet still possessed with a sense of shame and guilt. At the end of the second act Phil, a psychotic, is attached to Eddie by the baby he has kidnapped from his wife: the child is in memory of a decency they have none of for easy lays and instant highs.

Much of the work's impact depends on Mike Nichols's direction and his ability to get a sense of the behavioural detail. From Langella is brilliant as Eddie: he hugs and clutches people incessantly as a substitute for real contact, exhibits a notorious wit and, in one very funny moment, has a girl on the sofa while talking pretentiously about their attitudes. Ron Silver, Christine Ebersole and Jerry Stiller also make a powerful impact, offering a searing portrait of a narcissistic, pharmaceutical subculture terrified of real life.

The one other new Broadway play of any quality is August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, imported from the Yale Repertory Theatre. Set in a Chicago recording studio in 1927, it shows a group of black jazz musicians assembling for a session with the eponymous real-life blues singer, and what it offers is a truthful, still shocking picture of the reality of white racism.

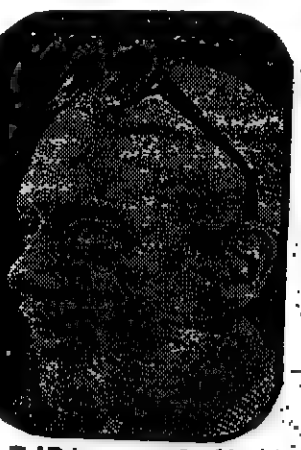
Ma Rainey herself may be a star but she still knows she can't hire a cab in Chicago and is likely to be robbed by the studio owner. Meanwhile down in the basement the musicians vent episodes of racist victimisation but only Levee, an aspiring trumpeter, seeks to break out.

I found the climax, in which Levee kills one of his colleagues, melodramatically hollow; but otherwise this is a play of guilt-inducing eloquence with a fine performance from Charles S. Dutton, who argues that "God takes a negro's prayers and throws them in the garbage."

Aside from these three shows (and Glenda Jackson in *Strangers With Candy*) Broadway has little to offer, and Golden Age, off-Broadway one isn't exactly spoiled for choice. At the Second Stage (largely dedicated to reviving plays of recent vintage) is what someone should be doing in London: I caught Richard Nelson's 1979 play, *The Vienna Notes*, a slightly arty piece about the mythologising of Freud, which is a US Senator refines and restages a violent episode from his past. Production, acting and design were far better than the writing.

Fans of *The Nerd* (of which I was one) will be pleased to hear there is a new comedy from the same writer, Larry Shure, called *Foreigner*, at the Astor Place Theatre. The central idea, that of a congenitally shy man who self-ignorance of English in order not to confuse with strangers, is worthy of a low-key Philip King.

But Mr. Shure himself, who has the Jewish solemnity of a medieval mystery play, is amusing as the hapless hero and gives himself a lot of sprightly business, not least when obliged to tell a funny story in a "foreign" language. It is not a particularly good play but it makes the audience laugh. Clearly there's no business like show business.



Rab Prince - another hit?

Nothing I had heard prepared me for the stunning originality of the show, for which much of the credit belongs to James Lapine's book and lyrics. In a course based on Sondheim's painting, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*.

The first half shows the artist, feverishly observing the human scene like a microscopist, working away on his giant canvas and sacrificing his model-mistress, Dot, to his obsession. In the second half the artist's great-grandson unravels his new light machine in a smart American gallery and embodies the artist's transition from solitary visionary to corporate-planning technician.

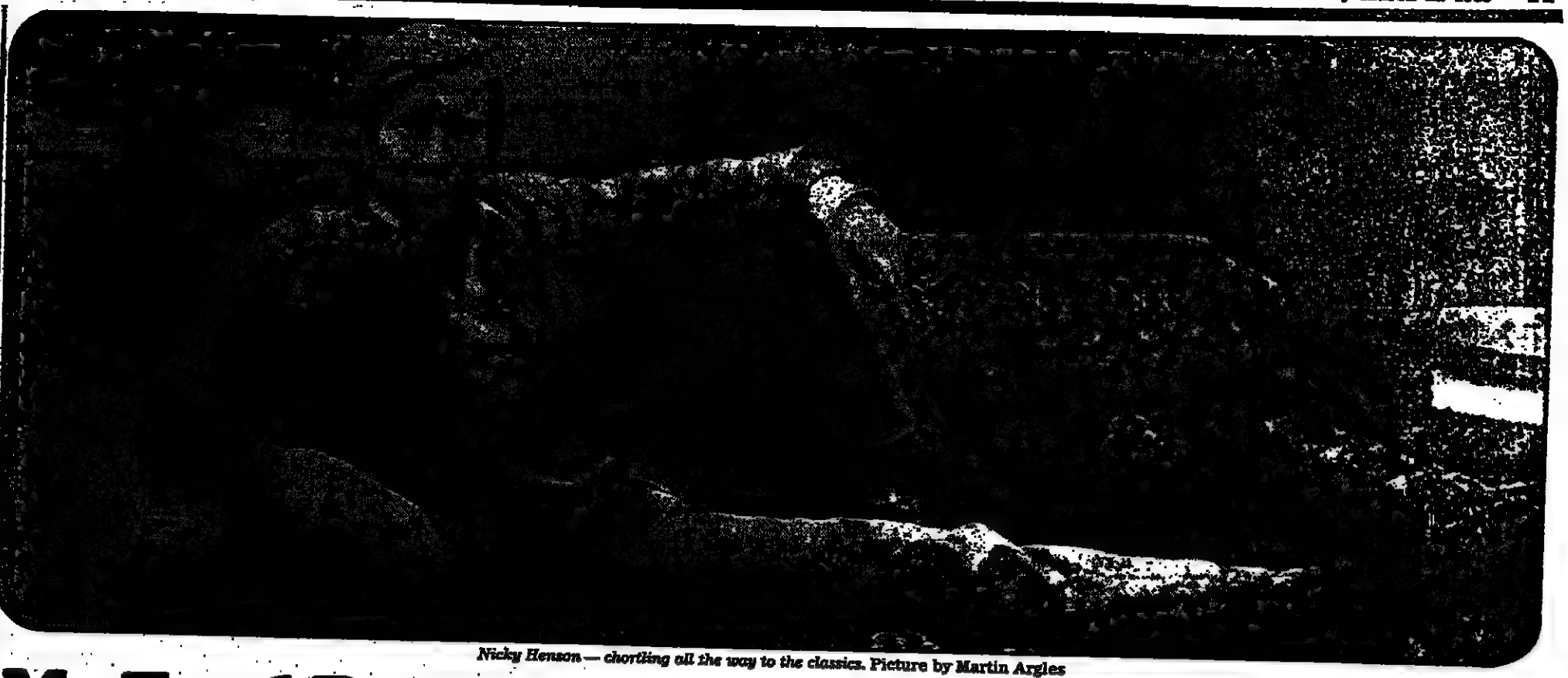
I think it is Sondheim's finest musical to date because it achieves a perfect synthesis between intelligence and emotion. For a start it pursues artistic licence on stage: actually it shows Sondheim re-ordering reality, creating his pointillist style, trying to reconcile order and harmony with truth to life.

But it also suggests that in the high-tech modern world art has become an extension of industry and serves to please sponsors as much as express a personal vision. Sondheim labours over painting a hat: his great-grandson puts the names of his contributors on the side of his machine.

But, for all that, the show has an end to it. It is a hymn to the infinite possibilities of art. And when, at the end of each act, *La Grande Jatte* is recreated on stage it floods the theatre with joy at the beauty and majesty of colour and design.

Sondheim's score, combining flowing melody with a musical pointillism, releases an impressionistic feeling normally checked by his stringent wit: in describing one work of art, he has created another, much aided by Tony Straight's designs (including dazzling laser beam show), Mr Lapine's pictorial direction, and the performances of Robert Westenberg and Mary McCormack. I just hope this uplifting musical makes it to London.

Just as Sondheim's musical became a hit by evolving organically, so too did David Rabe's Broadway play, *Burly Burly*, which began its life in a Chicago studio. It is a long, uncompromising play of great pain and power about the self-destructiveness of the Hollywood showbiz set and, by implication, about the malaise affecting American culture.



Nicky Henson - chortling all the way to the classics. Picture by Martin Argles

Mr Ford Popular

As Nicky Henson prepares for his first RSC season, he talks to Jim Hiley about his confused public image

NICKY Henson doesn't remember exactly what the gossip columnist called him, but it was something like "Susan Hampshire's greasy little rockers".

He was in the thick of an abundantly publicised relationship with Hampshire, but the stinging words had more to do with parts he'd played than his personal habits. Henson has grown accustomed to such distinctions being blurred, even by fellow professionals who see him as a 40-year-old Peter Pan in a scuffed leather coat. With an unmistakable chuckle, he just about shrugs it off.

"I all sorts back to the early 1970s, when I was in a lot of tacky British B-movies. My characters had long hair and were always stealing people's handbags."

He certainly has a youthful presence, which could be overpowering if it weren't disarming. Henson claims this is a psychological illusion - "because I feel very young inside". But looks come into it too, whether he likes it or not. He is small and trim, with a babyfaced wide forehead and conspicuously full set of teeth. One of

these, he explains almost before I'm inside the door, was replaced recently at a cost of £350. "When I saw the bill, I nearly asked for the old tooth back!" The chortle is broadcast again.

As for those much-televised old films, he insists that he made them only to subsidise a three-year, £30-a-week stint in classics ancient and modern at the Young Vic.

By the time the Fleet Street diarist coined his elegant phrase, Henson was ensconced at the National, playing sizeable roles in *Bond*, *Congreve* and *Shakespeare*.

Since then, he has taken time out for lighter things. His uptight "juvenile" in *Michael Frawley's* *Noises Off*, for example, was an unforgettable study of spluttering inarticulateness; and as *Horcroft* in Ayckbourn's *Abused Person Singular*, televised on New Year's Day, he showed a worm turning to chilling effect. But he has been back to the National twice, and recent records bear out his claim to be "more of a classical actor than otherwise."

"I've gone for ten years," he adds, "and hardly worn a pair of trousers." This is a

reference to period costume, not his raunchier B-movies, but trying to tell that to addicts of late-night tash.

"It's a very English thing that we keep up barriers between drama and comedy, say. Comics don't receive half their lines trying to get into straight plays."

Henson rightly jibes at class divisions, prurience and similar British characteristics as they are replicated in theatrical "circles". But national traits loom large within his own personality. For example, there's an oddly diffident attitude to his late father, the celebrated comedy star Leslie Henson.

While an American artist might cheekily exploit the paternal connection, Nicky Henson talks only of how his father frightened him. "If he hadn't died as early as 1967, I would never have gone into the business." Instead of gaining poise from his background, Henson masks nervousness and bouts of depression with his chortle.

"I always turn up for rehearsals on time and word perfect. But I behave like that because I'm insecure. It

makes me very boring in some people's eyes - they think only drunks and delicate flowers can be great artists." He is never unemployed, and throws himself into every job, thus evading confrontation with life's darker side. Some of his best work was achieved as the reckons, while his eight-year marriage to Una Stubbs was breaking up.

His season at Stratford will be supported by a lucrative sideline recording "voice-overs" for commercials, where just one assignment can earn "a couple of grand". The art, he says, is to get in and out within ten minutes, and smile sweetly when account executives try to teach you how to act. Henson doesn't think he's near joining the voice-over elite - a breed apart, who often give up proper acting altogether.

But he has worked out that he's a favourite for plugging cars, motor oils and hair spray.

Arriving at Stratford, he is more sensitive about his association with Sir Peter Hall and draws complex comparisons between the two big subsidised clans. "The

IT IS nearly 11 years since the Bolshoi Ballet danced in London, at the Coliseum summer 1974, and that season was not a happy one. It was marred by demonstrations both outside and inside the theatre, the company seemed tired and old and the one gigantic popular success was *Spartacus* by Yuri Grigorovich, no novelty but still done with that total commitment and belief in dramatic dancing for which the Bolshoi has always been celebrated.

So it is an enormous pleasure to report that the company is itself again, the Bolshoi re-born in another Grigorovich ballet surely destined to become as great a triumph as *Spartacus* and, fundamentally, a better work. His version of *The Golden Age* was made two years ago in Moscow but has only now been shown in the West, in Germany as part of the International Shostakovich Festival in the North Rhine area. The full length work was given in Duisburg and then in Düsseldorf.

The *Golden Age* was first performed in Leningrad in 1930 to a brilliant score by Shostakovich but with a muddled libretto about conflict between Fascists and a Soviet foothold team and with choreography by no fewer than four choreographers. It was not a success and was quickly removed from the repertoire.

Shostakovich wrote two more ballets, *The Bolt* in 1931 and *The Bright Stream* in 1935, but was discouraged by unfavourable reception and wrote no more. He was a close personal friend of Grigorovich who has now rescued a marvellous ballet score and, with some emendations (approved by the widow of Shostakovich), a different libretto turned a failure into a new masterpiece.

The *Golden Age* is the name of a restaurant, a club much frequented by the rich and vulgar bourgeoisie and the new libretto conceals itself wholly convincingly, with class contrast between this aspect of society and the healthy outdoor life of the fisher folk, all set in 1922.

The struggle between good and evil is concentrated in the relationships of four characters (as in *Spartacus*). Rita, the heroine, dances

classical technique as the basis for his choreography but uses elements of folk dance, grotesque mime, and social dances such as fox-trot and tango. The second act begins with everyone in the restaurant dancing to *Ta Ta Ta* for two which, again, sounds comic but isn't. He writes thrilling dance passages of pursuit and celebration and wonderfully contrasted *pas de deux*.

The first act ends with a love duet for Rita and Boris (dressed to some of Shostakovich's most beautiful music from the first piano concerto). Part of the second is used for another love duet - Grigorovich wanted to strengthen the love element in the ballet.

The young people wear for each other with outstretched arms and then nestle against each other in a gesture of affection and trust. Nothing could be more different than the exhibitionistic dance performed by Rita and Yashka in the restaurant. This involves sensationally difficult lifts and has a strong element of raw sex; a reminder that this is dancing for money, not love.

And not only has Grigorovich now shown us a magnificent new ballet, he has shown us a company. In Düsseldorf, except for one or two principals, the dancers were all under 27 and their dancing demonstrated throughout the evening remains incomparable.

The two male dancers dominate. As Boris, Irek Muchamedov performs miraculously convincing, often at the very height of jump, while exuding goodness and charm. Gediminas Taranda, as Yashka, is no less stunning in a darker, more tortuous role.

Natalia Bessmertnova, long loved in London, is at the peak of her career dancing the most difficult sequences with total ease and confidence. As the good-time girl Laska, both Tatiana Golikova and Maria Bylova were wickedly convincing and Mikhail Zywin as the master of ceremonies in the cabaret contributed a bright cameo.

Above all, however, the triumph in Germany was for the company, for Grigorovich and Virsaladze. London must see *The Golden Age* and the Bolshoi's new generation very soon; the unhappy memories of 1974 can then be wiped away for ever.

Triumph of a golden oldie

professionally at *The Golden Age* as Mademoiselle Margo. She is loved by Boris, a fisherman, and desired by her partner Yashka, a charming dancer as M. Jacques. Yashka is loved by his partner in crime Laska. By the end, Laska has taken a knife to Yashka in jealousy and it's turned against her as she is trapped by the fishermen while he holds Rita hostage but Boris disarms him, he is despatched and the fisher folk celebrate their victory in a joyous finale.

Baldly stated, this sounds a naive and old-fashioned pageant but in the theatre it has extraordinary dramatic truth. Grigorovich and his long-time colleague, the Bolshoi's own choreographer, have set out to recreate the life of Russia in the early 1920s and to state the ideologies of that time.

The ballet not only tells us something of Soviet history but also something of the traditions of Soviet choreography. We have read much

about the ballets of the early Soviet era and the "messages" they were expected to convey to the people. The *Golden Age* in this new version shows how vividly this could have been done and what marvellous entertainment a moral tale can be.

Grigorovich has shown mastery both of large scale action and of a big company and intimate pas de deux in many productions but I cannot remember one which moved so fluently and so entirely so the dancing as does *The Golden Age*. It is helped enormously, of course, by the score, witty and powerful by turns and always driving the action forward, especially as played by the Bolshoi's own orchestra under Yuri Simonov in Düsseldorf.


What makes the ballet so disarming and such fun is that Grigorovich has taken a lighthearted view of his subject. He doesn't preach; he simply shows a corrupt society and a good society and leaves the audience to draw its own conclusions. He draws, as always, on the



Mary Clarke sees the Bolshoi Ballet restored to its former glories

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BRIEFING
THEATRE

WILLIAM Douglas Home's *After The Ball* is Over open at the Old Vic. Maria Aitken directs. Patrick Cargill, Anthony Quayle and Maxine Audley star and the theme is fox-hunting in defiance of a legal ban. The Bush premieres a new American play, *Copperhead*, described as "an eccentric gothic thriller" written by Erik Bronger, directed by Simon Stokes and designed by Dermot Hayes. The Avon Touring Company come to the Cockpit with two shows: *Shades* devised by Robert Johnson and *Escape Artists*, a youth show devised by Vince Foxhall.

Recommended
The Mysteries (Cottesloe): Stunning production of a trio of medieval mystery plays: popular theatre at its best. Deadlines (Theatre Upstairs): Fascinating study of news management in the modern media: a savoury addition to *The Floghman's Lunch*.

Michael Billington

OPERA

THE Camden Festival opens next week include *Boito's Nerone* (Logan Hall Tuesday) in concert performance conducted by Antony Shelley with Donald Pilly as the tyrant. *Boito's Nerone* (Wednesday, next Friday, tomorrow week) is at the Bloomsbury. In Robert Carr's staging, conducted by Nicholas Cleobury with Har-

TY Nicoll, Glen Winalade, Philip Guy-Bromley. The 12-year-old composer's first opera buffa has a new English translation by Adam Pollock. Chelsea Opera Group, also conducted by Nicholas Cleobury, give a concert performance of Strauss's *Friedenstag* (Oxford tomorrow, Logan Hall Thursday).

II barbare di Stigitta (Covent Garden tonight, Tuesday, tomorrow week matinee) has Thomas Allen as the home-grown figure. The conductor Gabriele Ferro as well as the Rosina and Almaviva are making their Royal Opera debuts.

Don't miss: *Kierke* (Coliseum tonight, Tuesday, next Friday) brilliantly staged by Nicholas Hytner. *York* (Nottingham tonight, York Wednesday, Friday), with Helen Field as Violetta, Jonathan Summers as Ger-

mont: Carmen (Liverpool Wednesday, next Friday) with Arthur Davies as Jose.

Tom Sutcliffe

DANCE

AT Covent Garden tomorrow night the Royal Ballet presents *The Sleeping Beauty*; next Monday and Thursday a triple bill of Ballet Imperial, *L'Invitation au Voyage*, and *The Firebird*; and on Wednesday *Manon* will be led by Alessandra Ferri, Anthony Dowell and Ashley Page. Next Friday, Michael Corde's new ballet, *Number Three*, shares a bill with *The Firebird* and *Return to the Strange Land*. As part of the Royal Ballet Youth Week, there will be pre-performance talks at the Royal Opera House next Wednesday by Monica Mason — and Friday by Edgar Howarth — both at 8.15. Admission free.

Mary Clarke

ROCK

Brenda Lee: Glasgow Zanzibar (Friday), Dartford Orchard (Sunday), and Derby Assembly Hall (Tuesday). The

Teachers and their great divide

Baroness (Mary) Warnock has been described, a trifle dismissively, as "schoolmistress to the nation." In fact she has more in common with the old fashioned sixth form teacher who told her potentially first rate charges very firmly that they could do better, and who challenged them by turning their most cherished ideals upside down. In last night's Dimpleby lecture "Teacher Teach Thyself" she delivered some much-needed challenges to what she insists should be a profession and not a vulgar trade. Thus, she claims, parents tend not to respect teachers these days. They are no longer regarded as "dedicated." They strike and, "however reasonable their case," they do their image irreparable harm. Further, parents fear their children are being indoctrinated with social and political beliefs which they, the parents, do not share. Those parents who do share concerns currently fashionable among badge-wearing teachers, feel that such indoctrination is just plain wrong. Baroness Warnock is not afraid to be specific either. Fingering the flea she comments "I think the parents are right: the flea is abusing their power for political ends."

Add to that little lot Warnock's thought that Teacher should not ape (her word) the social worker, concerned with "the client" as part of society, a unit, first in a family and then in a wider climate. The teacher should be a believer in free will, regarding his or her pupils as free agents and not the victims of unemployment, of racial prejudice or of a criminal environment. Teachers should have confidence in themselves, in what they are teaching and how they are teaching it. They cannot exercise the authority they should if they are "bored, disillusioned or resentful." At which point your average union member, flushed from the conscience-wringing problem of working out how best to shut schools or withdraw cooperation without leaving the tougher kids to run wild on the streets and the brighter ones to fluff their "O's" and "A's,"

nods in recognition. "Bored, disillusioned or resentful" just about sums up the current mood. Sir Keith may, in popular press headline terms, be caning teachers and a number of Parent Teachers' Associations hovering on the brink of joining in. (Others are coming out four square behind the strikers, despite the Baroness's warning.) Sir Keith may eventually break the current pay campaign. But he is not about to cure the boredom, the disillusion and the resenting. Pupils will be living with these debilitating, pedagogic emotions for years to come.

"Mistress" Warnock is not averse to a spot of problem-solving and this is where her four point plan to professionalise teaching comes in. It centres round the creation by teachers themselves of a General Teaching Council, to establish good practice (an end to ideology?) and to set standards. The professionals hold the power to discipline and to strike off. The GTC takes over responsibility for teacher training, devolving it through "teaching schools" (of teaching hospitals) and teacher-tutors within schools. (Teacher-tutors would be the cream of the profession, providing a new channel of promotion.) The GTC becomes the assessment centre for the profession, under circumstances in which encouragement and training are more relevant than "rooting out" Sir Keith's rotten elements. Finally, it would be for the new council to define a pay structure rewarding professionalism. All well and good, perhaps, but for two caveats, one of principle and one appealingly pragmatic. Professional teachers most assuredly should be. But self-governing professional like the doctors and lawyers? For the present, as Sir Keith batters down the hatches ever tighter, the attitudes Baroness Warnock describes as those of "wage earners — miners, car workers" must inevitably win out over those of a caring profession.

Europe cans the poison

Poetic imagery is not the strong suit of the European Community. Thus when an official handout on the results of one of those marathon overnight sessions in Brussels opens with the words, "After a long, slow journey," and a commissioner tells a

press conference of a "miserable shadow over Europe" being lifted, one may be forgiven for wondering whether so many hours of lost sleep made the participants uncharacteristically light-headed. But so it was yesterday after a four-hour session of the Environment Ministers' Council which, against many expectations, produced agreement on the vexed and generally unappealing question of pollution from car exhaust gases.

The agreement, inevitably a compromise, was equally inevitably discounted as too little, too late by the Brussels-based European environmental lobby. But there is no denying that it will affect everybody who drives a car, lives in a city or has to walk past traffic jams — in short just about anybody in the Community countries who does not spend his life indoors in some remote spot. In a better world the proposed exhaust controls would come into effect much sooner (though there was bound to be a considerable delay for adjustment) and would be compulsory rather than permissive or optional. There is also the uncomfortable fact that over the next few months the supplementary work on establishing technical standards and permitted levels can confidently be expected to produce a series of complex wrangles which may lead us somewhat further from the ideal.

What matters, though, is that a political decision has been taken which is entirely capable and on balance very likely to acquire a momentum strong enough to overcome most foreseeable obstacles, not excluding the voluntary character of the proposed arrangements. This is largely due to the enlistment of the great ogre of free market forces in the fight against pollution. Once they start producing vehicles with pollution-control devices, car manufacturers will soon begin to lose interest in making "dirty" cars for a steadily shrinking market. Once lead-free petrol becomes generally available in four years' time with more and more cars equipped to use it, impure petrol can be expected to succumb to a similar process.

West Germany with its understandable national obsession about dying forests, pressed hardest for a Community accord on exhaust fumes, standing ready to go it alone if necessary. Once the Germans impose controls, a major market will be

closed to dirty cars and a major car-producer will cease to export them. It will surely not be long before their unconcerned competitors volunteer to opt for the permitted higher standards. Yesterday's agreement lacks glamour and precision, but deserves recognition as a quietly important demonstration of the Community's potential as an instrument for positive change. On this basis, long may it continue.

The coal strife lingers on

The war in the pits is by no means over, as those who marked Tuesday's High Court battle will have sadly noted. The National Coal Board successfully sought to restrain sacked Kent miners who were, it is claimed, making life difficult for those who had worked through the twelve-month long stoppage. Elsewhere claims of harassment against "scabs" who ignored the strike abound. In Wales, police are investigating attacks on the car owned by Mr Paul Watkins of the Phosphate plant who, alone, ignored his area strike call and "scabbed". Mr Watkins' case was, perhaps, the most disgraceful in the aftermath of the long and bitter dispute and it was faithfully recorded by the cameras of Channel Four News which, up to that point, had gained the reputation of the strikers' friend in a generally hostile media world. Meantime, of course, several hundred militant former strikers who ran up against the law have problems of their own. The NCB still resolutely refuses to grant a general amnesty and restore their jobs.

As Hilary and Percie-Smith of Bristol University demonstrated on Monday's Agenda page, a fair number of those sacked after conviction are now denied their jobs because of relatively trivial legal offences for which the court have already imposed penalties. The second generation strikes in support of those sacked, in Scotland, in Kent and in parts of Yorkshire have collapsed. That is hardly surprising after a year on the streets and with no serious backing from the trade union movement or even from the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers. But it does not mean that the bitterness has gone. Reports persist of actions, varying from "angry silence", insults and threats to spitting and

shoving and ending up with bricks through the car window. All of which may be good news for those who take the position that the battle is over but the war of attrition continues. For those who seek a new beginning it has to be very bad news indeed.

The question of amnesty continues to play upon the divisions within the NUM. Nationally the union has decided to conduct a ballot about whether to impose a 50p a week levy to support those sacked. The Nottinghamshire area has elected to boycott that ballot. So has South Derbyshire. Nottinghamshire has also abandoned the overtime ban, imposed long before the strike as part of a campaign for an improved pay offer. Other areas may follow suit. Nationally the union says the ban will continue until the sacked strikers are reinstated. The board (sir, stir) says there will be no discussions on pay increases until normal working is resumed. All of which tempts rebels in "moderate" areas to play for regional wage bargaining — which is something Mr Ian MacGregor has long hankered after.

One way and another, as Mr MacGregor goes about his task of making the price of insurrection and insubordination stick (to use his own deeply unattractive phraseology) the situation plays into the hands of the most destructive elements in the industry. And yet it need not be so. Sometime soon the talking has to start, and the sooner the better. A provisional agenda might open with the possibility of a general amnesty for all but the handful of genuinely violent criminals. In return the board could reasonably insist upon active union cooperation to end the persecution of those deemed to have "scabbed". With that out of the way, the second item on the agenda should logically be the abandonment of the (fast-eroding) overtime ban in return for resumed discussions on the 1983 (repeat: 1983) wage round which the board has already indicated is open for negotiation. Beyond that lies the question of whether the NUM will be party to the Nacods independent review procedure for disputed pit closures. Finally there is the whole business of a revised Plan for Coal. The present destructive stalemate can only add to the hurt the industry has suffered these past twelve months. It is high time, and the plainest commonsense, for both sides to begin the process of rebuilding relationships.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A squaring of accounts

Sir—Terry Coleman is abusive with people he dislikes, but when confronted by American wealth and power he fawns like a puppy, repeating politicians' stuff as though it means something and displaying the double standards he would be quick to condemn in others.

He rightly excoriates Malian ministers who drive around in big cars and exact taxes from an already straitened population. But he excuses American aid officials for their "air-conditioned cars and offices" and applauds Vice-President Bush, whose bullet-proof propaganda visit probably cost more than Mali's daily national income.

And he fails to notice that the "generous" innocent United States' last year exported \$130 billion from the rest of the world—much of it in the form of interest on various loans to poor countries—in order that it might simultaneously improve its gaudy affluent life-style and add to its already monstrous armament.—Yours faithfully, C. Wrigley, Highdown Road, Wex, E. Sussex.

Malapropos

Sir—As an African official working in the UN Office for Emergency Operations in Africa I was outraged by the Guardian printing Terry Coleman's racist article (March 14) on the situation in Mali—one of the six most gravely threatened countries on the continent. The writer has the effrontery to say that the only work in Mali are Europeans and Americans—a travesty of the truth as you, and you must know very well, having travelled extensively in the efforts of Africans at all levels to meet the very civilisation I am saddened that a paper such as yours should denigrate these efforts and thus contribute towards stifling the very generous instincts of the British public to help these people.

Mr Coleman's brief dismissal of the Geneva conference does less than justice to a world-wide effort of solidarity with Africa and determination to give the continent the opportunity to recover from this tragedy. Africans are in the forefront of that effort and Mr Coleman would have done well to speak to some of them before writing such an offensive and misleading article.—Yours sincerely, Dr Dillbrill Diallo, UN Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, New York.

Listen, man!

Sir—I am a public relations manager and I find the definition of "black" as an American word for a "PR man" (Letters, March 20) perplexing. Mary Flack, London W1.

The medical tests that call for some cramming

Sir—What you don't make clear in your Leader (March 19) on the Oxfordshire women who had positive cervical smears and yet were not told, is that about two-thirds of the 2,000 women who die each year in Britain from cervical cancer have never had a smear. Nor have I seen this spelled out in any of the plethora of articles and programmes that have followed this sad report.

It is, of course, deplorable that a woman should have a positive test and nobody act on that information; but the big problem is to get more—and eventually all—of the women at risk, which is all sexually active women, to have regular smears.

You are also wrong to put too much faith in computers. Of course computerisation can help but it cannot substitute for some individual or organisation—be it the general practitioner, family practitioner committee or regional health authority—taking it on him or herself to make sure that every

woman at risk is given the option of having regular smears.

If a woman refuses to have a smear, she must do so in the full knowledge that it is not a painful test and that she may lose a great deal, including her life, by not having the test.

I was glad that you expanded the debate on Britain's failure to mount an effective cervical screening system to our failure in many aspects of prevention. The British Medical Journal published an article (Guardian, December 14) showing that we are falling steadily behind other European countries in preventing deaths from heart disease, cancer, and other partially preventable conditions.

But your confidence in regular check-ups may be misplaced. Various studies, including an important one in South London and another in California, have failed to show many benefits in those given the check-ups compared with those who were not. The regular and

elaborate check-ups so beloved by Americans and sold so expensively by Bupa don't seem to be of much use.

But some parts of these examinations are undoubtedly worthwhile: what we need to find out is which tests are of benefit and cost-effective. Cervical screening is worthwhile if done efficiently and comprehensively—unfortunately neither is the case at the moment—as is regular measurement of blood pressure.

Many more people die as a result of undetected high blood pressure than of undetected cervical cancer, and our record of measuring the latter is even worse than that of screening cervical cancer. Yours sincerely, Richard Smith, 5 Broadhinton Road, London SW4.

Sir—The issue is not, as your Leader suggests, computerised versus manual recall systems. The laboratory in Oxford is in fact well organised and the standard

of medical care above average.

What Oxfordshire Health Council has been urging for many months is that the laboratory should inform women directly if they have an abnormal smear instead of telling only their doctor. We have met with inexplicable opposition to a suggestion which could be implemented quickly and would cost peanuts. In this case it is not lack of technology but medical paternalism which may cause avoidable suffering and loss of life.

We are also concerned that both the women who entered hospital with invasive cancer were immediately asked how many sexual partners they had had. They were not asked how long they had been on the pill, though both were long-term users and it was still prescribed after their initial abnormal smears.

As well as being "protected" from the knowledge that they have an early suspicious smear, women have equally been "protected"

from knowledge of the well-designed studies which show that long-term use of the pill causes cervical cancer and that barrier contraceptives reduce the risk. In pre-pill days, prostitutes in a prison study did not even have a positive smear before the age of 25, yet the sudden and dramatic doubling of deaths in young women despite screening is attributed solely to their sexual behaviour.

From all over the country I have reports of doctors congratulating themselves on successfully burning, freezing, or cutting dangerous cells away; rebuking women for their "promiscuity"; and sending them home to go on taking the pill, eating the same inadequate diet, or living with a man who works with carcinogens.

This is called preventive medicine and women's organisations and the Opposition health spokesmen are all demanding more of it.—Yours sincerely, Jean Robinson, 56 Lonsdale Road, Oxford.

Why our nuclear woes should have come as no surprise

Sir—Like most others, your contribution (Leader, March 20) to the discussion of the risks now known to have been taken in the early stages of the British nuclear weapons programme, is based on the assumption that neither the press nor the public could have known anything about this until quite recently.

Although that may be true of the detailed revelations made to the Sisevel Inquiry and the Australian Royal Commission in London, a plea of ignorance due to three decades of official secrecy is not quite as sound as, I suspect, you and many of your readers might like it to be.

Public opinion in this country was awakened to the probable dangers of nuclear weapons programmes after the notorious "Lucky Dragon" incident of March 1954, and by 1957 there was a nationwide network of grass-roots groups campaigning against weapons tests. In October of that year came the first big accident at Windscale (there had been others earlier). This was discussed in Parliament and in the press and from 1958, the newly formed Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament made frequent references to the event in its publications.

About the same time the Scientific Book Club published a history of the British nuclear weapons programme: Leonard Bertin's *Atom Harvest* (two date). He received extensive encouragement from the UK Atomic Energy Authority, and his book is as authoritative a contemporary account as one could hope for, given the obvious security restrictions of the day.

Time and time again for all who cared either then or since to read, Mr Bertin and the engineers and scientists interviewed make it as plain as daylight that many short-cuts had to be taken in design and construction of all major plants.

Mr Bertin speaks clearly enough of contamination accidents, but his book must have been written before the big Windscale accident, or he would hardly have lavished such unreserved praise on the filtering systems at the top of the peculiar chimneys, nor could he have

ended it by claiming: "Not a single case of damage due to radiation has ever been recorded in Britain since the project started."

Even more interesting in his narrative of Britain's second A-test in Australia in November 1955, the one Lord Penney only now, "in hindsight", admits to having been unsure. Mr Bertin was among the press corps at the test, which had suffered "repeated postponement" due to "troublesome low-level winds", according to the briefings given by the then Dr Penney's technical secretary, ex-Navy Captain Pat Cooper.

Mr Bertin quotes Capt Cooper as follows: "On the day of the explosion low-level winds were present, but at 10,000ft there was a steady SSW wind which did not, however, prevent the activity being watched later eastwards towards the coast of New South Wales, although by the time it reached there it was far too diffuse to do any harm." To Mr Bertin's credit, because there was 1,000 miles of increasingly populated Australia between the test site and the New South Wales coast. One can only ponder at the kind of thinking which enabled Dr Penney to suppose that a suitable wind at 10,000ft meant there would be no problem about the "activity" dispersed from lower altitudes.

Mr Bertin later visited the Canberra laboratory of Prof Oliphant, future South Australian governor but then security risk, where radiation counters were registering X-ray activity 15 times greater than normal. It is unclear whether the following comment on safety was provided by the professor, or whether Mr Bertin inserted it from other sources: "The which was well within safety limits, nevertheless indicated quite clearly the presence of radiation explosion debris in the clouds overhead."

Given this much to go on so soon after the event, it hardly seems, does it, that we have had a good enough excuse for knowing nothing about it all ever since?—Rip Baileys, 35 Lonsdale Road, Oxford.

Underpricing the poor into underpaid jobs

Sir—Economic policies are the major cause of human economic policies. But there was little about man in the Budget.

Few commentators have risen up in righteous anger at the cruel selfishness of offering adult humans beings the odd year of community service in place of a lifetime's job satisfaction. Few have decried the idea of removing controls on wages and employment so that living standards at the bottom of the scale could be further reduced in the pious hope that a few poorly paid jobs might be offered.

How would you live on the sorts of incomes and conditions proposed? But perhaps the underprivileged are a yours faithfully, Dudley Davis, 15 Whitlow Way, Pitwick, Bedford.

Sir—I read with some astonishment that John Harvey-Jones, director of ICI, has had his pay increased by 68 per cent, i.e. £2,230 a week! Teachers by compar-



son are asking for a £1,200 per annum increase.

The Government suggests the teachers are being irresponsible. What about ICI? —Yours faithfully, Christopher J. Cheesman, 201 Dollis Hill Lane, London NW2.

Sir—The Duke of Westminster is reported to be £600 million better off as a result of tax concessions introduced since the Conservatives came to power in 1979. It is therefore a little hard for those of us on average to

low incomes, who are considerably worse off now than we were in 1979, to accept that it is our greed which is perpetuating unemployment.

When Nigel Lawson claims that the poor need the incentive of lower pay to get them back to work, while the rich need even higher tax concessions to enable more jobs to be created, I cannot help feeling that he has about the same grasp of social reality as had Marie Antoinette.—Yours, Mike Garner, Bristol.

A junior minister who cannot hold a candle to Canterbury

Sir—A junior minister criticises the concern expressed in public by the Archbishop of Canterbury, at the misery and loss of personal dignity endured by an appalling number of people who are unemployed in our cities and elsewhere at present.

The families of the men who were detained in Libya attended a meeting taken by this junior minister. Ray Whitney received us with courtesy but his attitude to our distress and anxiety was negative. We felt that this was an abortive meeting. In a letter dated September 1 immediately after our meeting with him, we wrote: "We

left the meeting with the sad feeling that the men would not be released through any action on the part of government."

From our personal experience we would state that the Archbishop of Canterbury has a perceptive and concerned attitude towards those in real distress. We hope that his personal support and compassion will always be expressed fearlessly on behalf of those who need his help.—Yours faithfully, Cynthia Mary Walter, Medlar Cottage,

Sir—Your thoughtful Letter of March 19 comments on the Church's public disquiet about growing social

injustice in the "stricken cities and blighted regions." Certainly, such poverty is less apparent in the South-east; but Canterbury's affluence is illusory, being concentrated amongst the university and other professionals; and the tourists — around whom this once-beautiful city has been shoddily remade. The council estates and rural areas in and outside Canterbury show painful poverty and unemployment.

Most important, Kent has experienced oppressive policing, at the coalpits and at the country's borders. After a year of marvellous heroism facing hardships unimaginable of the richer people here, the Kent miners are left with a heritage of bitter

feelings and huge debts. They fear, realistically, that at least one pit will close within 18 months and that there will be massive redundancies by spring of this year.

The mining villages are communities, but to remain so, there has to be employment. Kent's three thousand miners cannot all travel from their country villages into the cathedral city to clean colleges and serve tourists. If any pits close in Kent, there will be "stricken" communities and a "blighted" region, in the heart of the prosperous South.—Yours sincerely, Lorraine Hewitt, 5a Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, Kent.

A COUNTRY DIARY

LONGDENDALE: You wouldn't expect to find any use of special historic significance on the broad, chocolate brow of Black Hill; 1,908 feet of featureless dome where murky nimbostratus so often lurks low and clinging. Imagine the surprise, then, when in 1841 an examination of the summit exposed the large timber framework which had been built there in 1784 to support the 35 inch Great Ramsden theodolite used here as part of the original triangulation of the country. Jesse Ramsden went to his native Yorkshire to London in 1753. Three years later he became apprenticed to a mathematical instrument

maker and seven years later set up in business making astronomical instruments. He soon gained a national reputation for the high quality of his products; his celebrated five-foot vertical circle speeded up the change from quadrants in observatories. The actual theodolite used here on Black Hill two centuries ago now stands in the Science Museum and a standard concrete triangulation pillar occupies the same highest point of what has been called this acid waste. From this plateau-top two important modern routes radiate towards the north-west and north: the former is the ill-defined line of the Pennine Way which in two miles crosses the Greenfield

Holmfrith road near the site of the Moors Murders graves, the latter is the more popular Pennine Way. A narrative leading by way of Wessenden Head into the Valley and Marsden, terminus village for walkers of the historic Edale Strid (or turn-round point if you are doing the Edale to Marsden Double). Little of this territory is visible from Black Hill's top, though, because it is such a broad dome. Staring up there beside the concrete triangulation pillar you are actually less than a dozen miles from the birthplace of Jesse Ramsden exactly 200 years ago. ROGER A. REDFERN.

Greater Manchester

pictures by Don McPhee

A special report introduced by James Lewis

The super council

IN just over a year's time — on April 1, 1986 — Greater Manchester is due to expire as an administrative county. The difficult task of dismantling the structure, coupled with stiffening parliamentary resistance to the abolition proposals, may result in a stay of execution, but the fact is that the metropolitan authority is now numbered.

Paradoxically, the Government's determination to scrap the "super councils" has served to increase public awareness of the role of the metropolitan authorities which, in the early years of their existence, made no great impact on the long-suffering ratepayers. "Our campaign against abolition has been a great success," says Mr Bernard Clark, Labour leader of Greater Manchester Council, who has been a prime mover in the fight for survival.

The evidence bears him out. An opinion poll carried out in Greater Manchester last summer showed that two

out of every three of the county's two and a half million people wanted to see the GMC retained. A MORI poll across the six metropolitan counties revealed that 60 per cent of the voters disapproved of the decision not to hold elections in the metropolitan counties this year.

The fight against abolition has brought about a clear though belated recognition of what has been achieved in the eleven years since GMC was created. With that goes a determination that the advances of Greater Manchester in the most adverse of economic circumstances must be continued by its ten constituent district councils.

No-one, least of all Mr Clark, is prepared to claim that the economic decline in Britain's biggest conurbation, and the oldest industrial conurbation in Europe, has yet been arrested, but neither would anyone deny that the past ten years have been used to impressive effect: that the county is now better equipped and served, more

attractive, and better poised for the future than at any time since the war.

The last few years have seen a remarkable transformation in the 500 square miles that make up Greater Manchester. The legacy of dereliction and decay left by the "muck and brass" ethic of the industrial past has been largely swept away. Long-neglected open space, in which the county abounds, has been put to new and imaginative use. Rivers, canals, lakes, woodland and moorland have been given a new lease of life as country parks (eleven of them, plus two water parks) and as leisure and recreation areas.

Town centres have been rebuilt, old buildings tastefully restored and improved sites created for the new and high-technology enterprises of the second industrial revolution.

As the traditional industries of cotton, engineering and mining have declined — no fewer than 150,000 jobs were lost between 1978 and 1983 — so new and often in-

ternational names arrived on the scene: Olivetti from Italy; Mullard, Philips, and Pirelli from Holland; Agfa-Gevaert and Petrofina from Belgium; Elf Oil from France; Ciba-Geigy and Sulzer from Switzerland; Honeywell, IIT and Hewlett Packard from the United States; Sharp, Sony and Brother from Japan; and many, many more.

There is a long way to go before Greater Manchester recovers from the heavy job losses of recent years, but the industrial base of the county has never before been so diversified. Gone are the days when towns, villages and communities could be almost entirely dependent on a single activity. The broadened spectrum of employment is much less vulnerable to sudden shifts in demand.

The new industries are much less labour intensive than the old, but the county's economic transformation in recent years has been marked by a shift from manufacturing towards the service and distribution sector.

While employment in manufacturing industry has dropped by more than a third in the past ten years, jobs in the service sector have increased by 9 per cent, and there is every reason to suppose that this trend will continue.

Ease of communications has been an important factor in attracting new companies. Greater Manchester is crisscrossed by seven motorways which speed traffic north, south, east and west. The most important to trade has undoubtedly been the trans-Pennine M62, linking west and east coast ports. London is only two and a half hours away by train, and Manchester International Airport handles six million passengers a year and some 40,000 tonnes of cargo.

The hundred-acre Manchester University campus, which has no equal anywhere else in Europe, has strong ties with industry and commerce, and Salford University, counted among the country's leading technological

institutions, has one of the largest and most successful schemes for sharing expertise with firms in and far beyond the county.

The Manchester campus houses the university, the Institute of Science and Technology, the schools of Medicine and Dentistry, the Manchester Business School, the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester Polytechnic and the City College of Education.

Europe has proved to be an important source of finance for the county's regeneration. The GMC employs a lobbyist in Brussels and this initiative alone has brought in more than £40 million of EEC money. It has been used to expand the airport, to assist the ambitious Central Station Exhibition Centre project, to finance a wage subsidy scheme which has created 8,400 new jobs county-wide, to reclaim derelict land and generally to breathe new life into the local economy.

The European Community

has been impressed by the county's scope for attracting tourists to sites like Castlefield — Britain's first Urban Heritage Park — where the Air and Space Museum, opened in 1982, and the Museum of Science and Industry, which opened the following year, are being developed alongside the world's first passenger railway station and adjacent to the heart of Roman Manchester.

Another organisation which has played an ever-increasing role in encouraging new business and employment opportunities in the county has been the Greater Manchester Economic Development Corporation, which is responsible for the development and management of seven industrial estates — 240 acres of development land with 340,000 square feet of factory space catering for a wide variety of needs.

GMEDC, the first organisation of its kind to be formed and funded by a local authority (in this case GMC), brings together many sources of

finance to help new businesses and is justifiably proud of the flexible way in which it can assemble packages of money, premises and business expertise to help the budding entrepreneur.

The corporation has organised many successful overseas trade missions — it is at present leading a mission to Singapore and Hong Kong — and has recently established a subsidiary company, Worknorth, to operate a business funding scheme jointly with GMC and the Co-operative Bank, which has its national headquarters in Manchester.

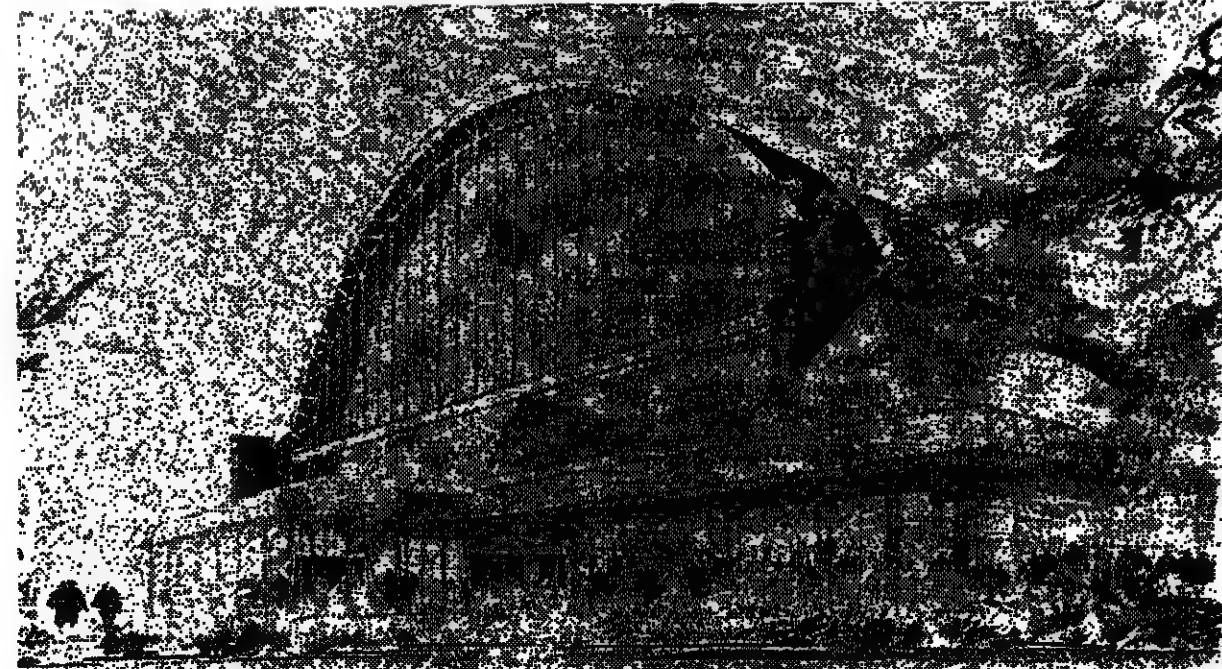
GMC is under threat, and up to 1,000 of its workers could, in the event of its abolition, join the county's dole queue which, sadly, still stands at nearly 180,000. But the geographical county will remain: a county which has endured the hardships of industrial decline, fought against the ravages of recession and emerged in better shape to grasp and exploit whatever opportunities the future may bring.

The message from County Hall

Great Future... Greater Manchester...

G-MEX

THE GREATER MANCHESTER EXHIBITION & EVENTS CENTRE



- ★ G-MEX will be one of the most exciting and modern Exhibition and Events Centres in the whole of Europe, and its development and conception is a remarkable example of co-operation between the GMC and the public sector.
- ★ G-MEX is a unique combination of the vital factors for a successful Exhibition and Events Centre. It is situated right in the heart of the City Centre with ample car parking; it has excellent motorway and rail connections with all parts of the country and an international airport only 20 minutes away. It is a much needed facility with a population of 16.4 m. within a 75 miles radius and is certain to benefit the concentration of industry and commerce within the whole of the North West region as well as housing major public events.

- ★ G-MEX will be fully operational early in 1986 and will provide wonderful exhibition facilities and back-up services with a gross total area of 10,350 sq.m., an area which can be divided into smaller sections if required.
- ★ G-MEX will be an Exhibition Centre for 9 months of the year but for two periods, one in the summer and one over the Christmas and New Year, the Centre will be devoted to Arena Seasons. A Sports Arena with 5,500 seats will provide a facility for such top class events as World Tennis, International Horse Show, Indoor Football, Boxing, Athletics and Basketball. This can be increased to over 10,000 when converted to an auditorium that will become a venue for pop concerts, super star personal appearances and classical and promenade concerts.

An Information Guide containing all necessary details is now available for exhibition organisers and arena event and concert promoters.

The response from major exhibition organisers has already established an impressive range of exhibitions starting early in 1986 and only certain dates are now available for that year. Early application should be made for 1987 exhibitions.

Arena events for July 1986 and the following December/January season are now being planned and early application is recommended.

Chief Executive
John B. Bell

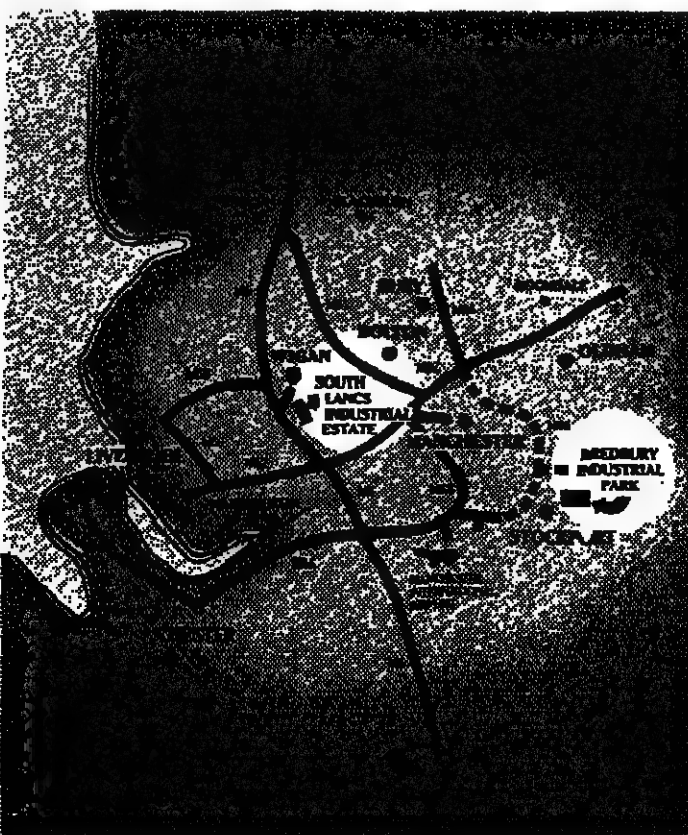
The Greater Manchester Exhibition and Events Centre is operated by:
G-MEX MANAGEMENT LIMITED
St. James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FQ. Tel: 061 236 8000

General Manager
Frank Winter

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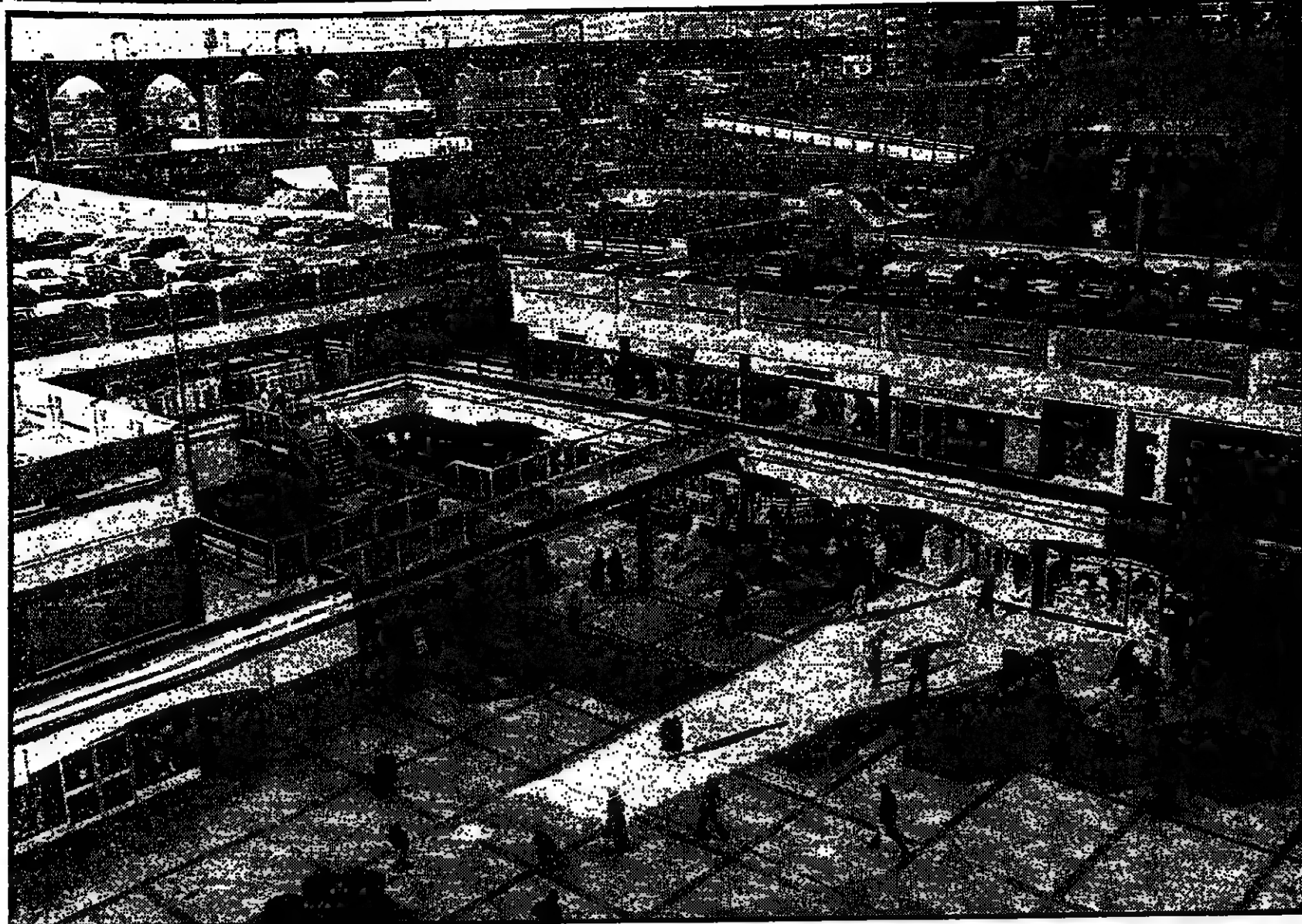
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Town centre shopping — and shoppers — in Stockport (above) and Manchester

Shopping mall to market stall

RETAIL TRADE
George Trafford

ON a typical, busy Saturday, in town centres such as Stockport, Bolton or Bury — when car-park spaces are at a premium and check-outs under siege — it is difficult to believe that the retail trade has any deep-rooted anxieties about the way things are going.

Yet, the fast-moving retail sector has experienced enormous upheavals in shopping patterns over the last couple of decades. The question uppermost in the minds of planners and traders alike is whether there is now enough money to go round for the vast range of shopping facilities that have been created.

Traditionally, Manchester

was the big-store mecca for the North-west, while locally-owned shops and a sprinkling of multiples served the major towns in the conurbation. But Manchester appeared to lose its grip in the 1960s, possibly because it had not, at that period, learned to live comfortably with the car-bound shopper.

Parking frustrations drove many shoppers to the new out-of-town hypermarkets and supermarkets that were springing up on the outskirts of large towns. Simultaneously, the townships themselves decided to get into the act by ripping out their centres and building modern shopping precincts.

Manchester has been obliged to fight back, with promotional campaigns such as "City Centre Manchester — Right at the Heart of

Things". The city can still boast the fourth-largest floor selling space in Britain, including the love-it-or-hate-it Arndale Centre, now the largest covered precinct in Europe.

But even the Arndale, Market Street's controversial colossus, has its out-of-town satellites, with smaller Arndales in towns such as Stratford and Middleton. And the building of the huge central shopping precinct took so long and was so disruptive to city shopping generally, it has been blamed by some critics for allowing the other GMC townships to get a head start in the modern shopping stakes.

Big-scale property developments in the '60s and '70s started the change of direction, taking Marks &

Spencer (once the prerogative of Central Manchester) into towns such as Ashton-under-Lyne, while Littlewoods, another former city-dweller, moved into Oldham.

The shopping precinct craze seemed destined to roll on for ever, touching even small townships, gobbling up countless local traders on the way and substituting a series of standard, monotonous facades across the shopping centres of almost every town in the GMC.

If this was shopping progress, there had to be a limit. The question of the moment is whether that point is near; whether, in fact, the Greater Manchester area is now in danger of becoming "over-shopped". Greater Manchester has the largest number of shops and stores per head of population among the Metro-

politan counties. In an average year, consumers are handing over around 23 billion across the county (the figure is all-embracing and includes major items of spending such as cars).

In spite of this colossal turnover, the Greater Manchester Council is taking the view that there is only a certain amount of shopping expenditure to go round. Growth in one area could be at the expense of decline in another. In turn, decline could lead to abandoned and derelict town centres — the exact opposite of what the precinct-planners had in mind when they began to modernise town centres.

A complicating factor for the GMC area these days is the disturbing evidence of a "North-South divide", similar to the differences which are separating the prosperous, high-wage economy of South-east England and the high-unemployment, hard-up North.

Within the county, the biggest southerly town, Stockport, is feeling all the benefits of being a good shopping centre for Cheshire-resident families who draw their livings from the burgeoning high-tech and white-collar sectors. Stockport has the second-largest shop turnover in the county, a booming Merseyway shopping precinct and all the signs of a thriving retail sector.

A further vote of confidence for Stockport came recently from the Northwest Pioneers Co-operative Society, the biggest retailer in the GMC and fifth-largest independent retail society in the co-op movement. It announced it would spend 24 millions on a facelift and extension to its department store in Chester-gate, which it predicts will become its "flagship" for trading operations in the county.

The society — whose latest annual turnover figure stood at £140.5 millions — has also announced a £400,000 redevelopment scheme for its Shopping Giant store in Farnworth, proving that it still has confidence in the northerly townships to justify a major trading presence.

But there is little doubt that the pace and volume of trade in the north of the county has been hit badly by the recession's inroads into traditional manufacturing sectors, such as engineering. Money is tight in the northern townships.

The reaction of such towns is often to step up their shopping facilities. In an attempt to pull trade from other areas, the GMC is concerned about the long-term effects of this "beg-trade" situation. The problem is to strike the correct balance in terms of the county's shopping needs, while acknowledging the attempts of the townships to make their centres more attractive.

It's not an easy balance, as events in Oldham showed recently. The town already has two shopping precincts and now it plans further developments. The county council has been unenthusiastic, gently making the point about overspending.

Nonetheless, Oldham has discovered that all is not yet lost to the grim march of the concrete precincts. A plan for cutting a chunk from the town's open-air Tommyfield Market (one of the biggest and best-known in the North-west) to make way for a car park met with furious public opposition.

The plan has now been dropped in favour of an alternative scheme for spending money on improvements to the open-air market itself. If the planners had it right — and what the public wants is covered — heated shopping centres with muzak and pizza-parlours — it should never have happened. But it did and that's why there still seems hope for traditional shopping patterns, precincts notwithstanding.



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THEY BELIEVE IN FREE SPEECH. BUT NOT FAIR HEARINGS.

When it comes to the abolition of the metropolitan county councils, the Government doesn't like what it has been hearing.

From all quarters condemnation of the Abolition Bill's ill-starred proposals has rained down on Government ministers, who have found the Bill decidedly hard to defend.

Take Abolition Minister Kenneth Baker's "savings" argument. He still claims that abolition of Greater Manchester Council and the other metropolitan county councils will save ratepayers at least £50 million a year. Yet his Government now recognises the impartiality of the only financial study into abolition, which reveals that costs will rise by anything up to £69 million a year.

Take his equally absurd claim that abolition will make local government simpler to understand and more accountable. Simpler? When the Bill proposes to replace one county council with a complex web of joint boards, joint committees, quangos and a host of voluntary arrangements. More accountable? When instead of police, fire and passenger transport services (to name just three) run by an elected GMC, they'll be directly controlled by the Government. Accountable not to your local town hall, but to Whitehall.

Yet, with wide-ranging criticism of such proposals

from literally thousands of independent third parties ringing loud in his ears, Mr Baker ignores all, stubbornly pushing his Bill through Parliament.

SO, WHAT'S THE REAL REASON FOR ABOLITION?

Here's a clue: the threatened councils are all Labour controlled.

And there's an irony here too: Because in fact, many of the GMC's key policies are precisely those which the Prime Minister herself claims to support.

Like our employment programmes, which have created over 6,000 jobs in the past three years, with more to come. And our unique achievement of attracting more than £40 million worth of economic aid from the EEC, something we've managed with rather less fuss than the Government itself.

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But of course, we're not of the right political complexion, are we?

DOING THE DECENT THING.

Even so, we should still be the apple of the Prime Minister's eye.

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But, will the Government stop, think and listen to our arguments? It's unlikely.

As the Abolition Bill approaches its third and final reading in the Commons, Conservative MPs who should speak up for the metropolitan county councils seem to have lost their voices.

Even though many of them demanded that the Abolition Bill be modified. Which it hasn't been. And that its critics' objections be fully considered. Which they haven't been.

They could still do the right thing. And make sure, even at this late stage, that we get a fair hearing.

SAY NO TO THE ABOLITION OF GMC. DEMAND AN INQUIRY NOW.

ISSUED BY THE GREATER MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN COUNTY COUNCIL. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GMC, COUNTY HALL, MANCHESTER M60 3HP.

Manchester Airport the ready-made alternative to Stansted

AIRPORT
James Lewis

WHILE the Government is still hawking over whether to expand Stansted, Manchester International Airport is pressing on with a £20 million capital programme to cope with the ever-growing throughput of passengers and freight.

The volume of passenger traffic increased last year by 16 per cent to more than six million, and freight rose by 15 per cent to nearly 40,000 tonnes. It was particularly significant that the passenger increase was not only in holiday travellers but in passengers on scheduled flights, notably those destined for the European gateways of Brussels, Zurich, Frankfurt and Paris.

The statistics illustrate a real and growing demand and give the lie to the claim, underlying the Stansted proposal, that the South-east is the preferred point of departure for air travellers.

Manchester led the fight by a consortium of Northern authorities against the massive development of Stansted at the expense of regional airports. It was a highly successful campaign resulting in a revolt by Conservative MPs and a defeat for the Government when the Stansted scheme came before the Commons earlier this year.

Although the vote is not binding on the Government, the chief executive of MIA, Mr Gil Thompson, believes that the Stansted idea is dead. "The support for our consortium from MPs throughout the country, and from both sides of the House, is a clear recognition that the northern airports have a powerful and legitimate voice in defining the future of civil aviation policy in the United Kingdom."

The only way to make progress, and to enable the White Paper on civil aviation to go through Parliament in May, Mr Thompson believes, is to draw up compromise proposals which will recognise the needs of Northern travellers.

Any major development in the South-east at the expense of MIA would be a major setback to the economy of the

North-west and deliver a blow to a highly successful example of public enterprise that enhances the economic prospects of the region, provides much-needed employment and makes a significant contribution to the local rates.

Ringway, as many still think of it, is owned by Manchester city council and run jointly by the city and Greater Manchester County Council. It employs 5,000 people directly, and about twice that number indirectly, and showed an operating profit last year of £14 million, of which more than £5 million went to the parent authorities as a dividend.

This did not prevent one local Conservative MP, Mr Fred Silvester (Withington), from trying on two occasions to turn MIA and other municipal airports into public limited companies. Both attempts were heavily defeated.

The European Community is more convinced than the Westminster Government of the economic importance of regional airports and has contributed nearly £20 million to the expansion of MIA in the last five years. This has enabled it to continue its policy of expanding slightly ahead of demand and ensuring that there is less of the congestion that often affects travellers through terminals such as Heathrow.

8.5 million passengers

The present development programme, to cater for a projected throughput of 8.5 million passengers a year by the end of the decade, will nearly double the size of the international departure lounge, provide a new operations control tower, add a satellite extension to one of the international piers, increase the capacity of the international arrivals hall and create a wholly new cargo centre.

The enlarged departure lounge will provide seating for another 540 passengers and the pier extension, which will have capacity for up to seven aircraft, will provide lounge seating for another 1,000 passengers. The

enlarged arrivals hall will be extended to link into the existing bus and coach station.

At £7.5 million, however, the biggest single project is the new cargo centre which is on the western side of the airfield and will have direct access to the M56 motorway. It will contain bonded warehousing and freight forwarding offices and will update all the existing freight facilities which are at present housed in old wartime hangars. Demand for space in the new complex is such that the airport's cargo manager, Mr Vin Berry, thinks that an extension to it may soon be necessary to cater for the needs of a catchment area which has 60 per cent of the country's manufacturing industry.

It is appropriate that this year — from May 14 to 16 — MIA is to host a second air cargo exhibition and conference which will occupy more than 35,000 square feet of space in a hangar adjacent to the new cargo terminal. More than 2,000 visitors attended last year's exhibition, and more than 50 companies, from eleven different countries on four continents, are expected to be represented in May, at what promises to be the most important event of the year in the diary of the British air cargo industry.

About five tonnes of mail a day, which was previously routed through the London airport, is being transferred by the Post Office to MIA this month to take advantage of the growing number of scheduled destinations on its timetable. This is expected to improve the quality of service to postal customers in the North-west, North Wales, the North Midlands and South Yorkshire.

An estimated 70 million letters a year to destinations worldwide will pass through the airport when the new service gets under way. "We are delighted to have gained this new business," says Mr Thompson. "The Post Office is already planning to send mail on the British Airways New York service, and the £1 Al Tel-Aviv service, both of which begin next month, and on the British Airways Hong

Kong link which is planned for the autumn."

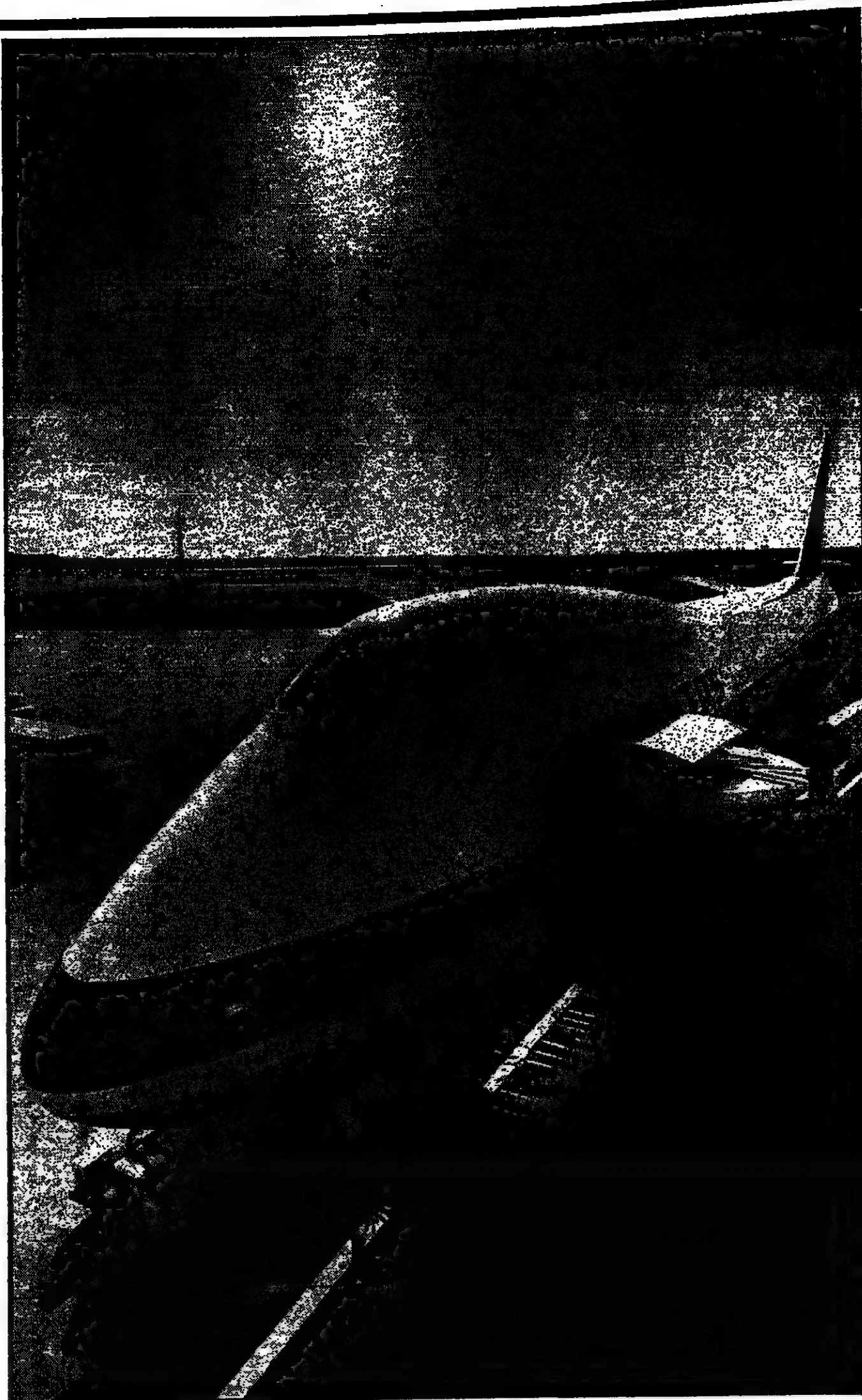
Businessmen in a hurry often want to reach destinations which are not on the scheduled timetable. To serve their needs, and many others besides, Northern Executive Aviation, which also operates from MIA, runs a fleet of nine multi-engined air taxis with a seat capacity ranging from three to nine.

Pride of the fleet is a 500 mph Learjet which can also be used as an air ambulance to bring seriously ill patients back to the United Kingdom. One such flight which made world headlines was the return from California to Bristol of the New Pickettywitch pop singer, Sheila Rossall, who suffered from an allergy to all modern materials and chemicals. The flight, with a doctor and medical equipment, involved a 15,000 mile round trip from Manchester.

No viable substitute

The strength, versatility and economic performance of the Lear, which was originally designed on military lines, has enabled its operators at Manchester to form a new company, Flight Operations Ltd, to provide an aerial target-towing service to NATO and other military forces. The company's managing director, Captain David Antrobus, says that considerable interest is being shown in this development, which can be cheaper than using sophisticated combat aircraft for the job.

MIA is the only officially designated Category "A" Gateway International Airport outside London, and handles as many passengers as the combined total of the next three largest regional airports — Glasgow, Birmingham and Belfast. It is the fastest-growing major airport in Europe and, though the Stansted mentality could impede its development, it will continue to grow because it efficiently fulfils a self-evident need for which another terminal in the South-east would not be a viable substitute.



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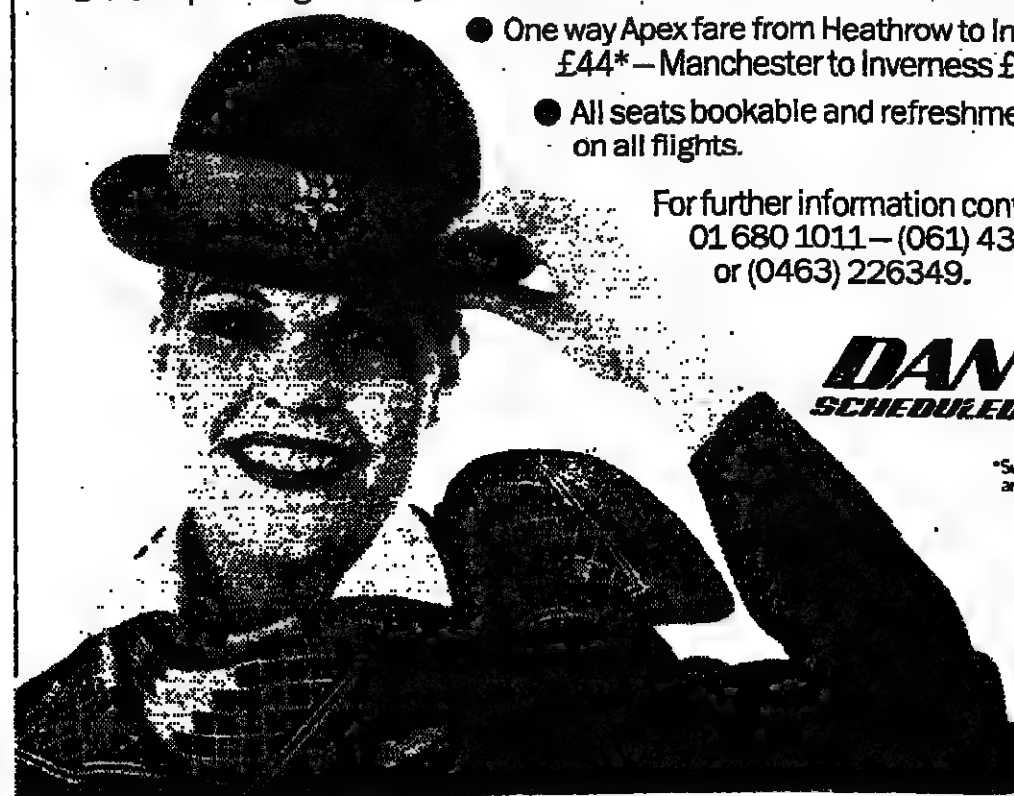
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Greater Manchester

THE GUARDIAN Friday March 22 1985 17

Up, up and away

INTERNATIONAL ROUTES

EVEN before it was officially designated a Category A international gateway airport in 1978, Manchester International has been developing as a major hub of world air travel, offering international services comparable with, but independent of, those available at Britain's other hub in the London region.

Regular, scheduled trans-oceanic services are one of the most obvious differences between a hub airport and one more concerned with local or regional feeder services. Manchester's hub status was underlined a couple of years ago by its Qantas services to Australia, and now by the British Airways service to New York (three times weekly, from April 1).

New York is not alone as a new name on the schedule. Bergen, Oslo, and Stavanger are also added to the scheduled destinations. It is significant that the schedules include business centres away from Oslo; Manchester International has never subscribed to the superstition that capital cities are the world's only centres of interest. New York itself might be expected to share this point of view. Air travel is all about the shortest distance between points.

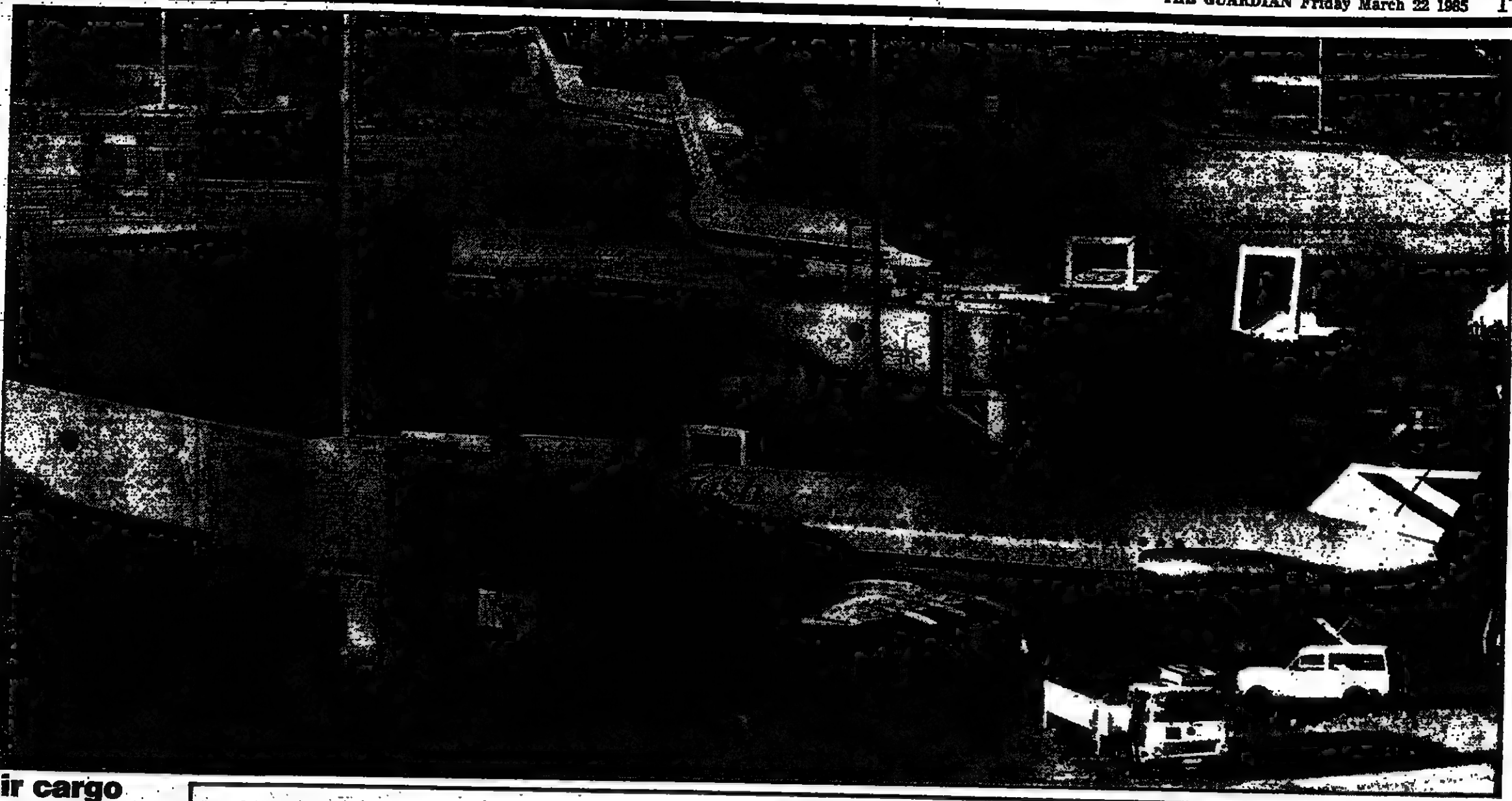
The 1985 summer schedules also see improved links with both the Middle and Far East. Bahrain is a new destination; so is Tel-Aviv. Many travellers, both inside and outside Britain's Chinese community, will welcome the new scheduled services to Hong Kong expected to commence this autumn. Several European destinations appear on the schedules for the first time: Geneva, Jubbiana, Malta, Montpellier, Munich, and Palma.

Domestically, the London services are improved, and there is a new daily run by Dan Air to Inverness.

Air cargo

FOR the second time, Manchester International Airport provides the setting for the Air Cargo Exhibition and Conference, held from Tuesday, May 14, to Thursday, May 16. This brings together all sides of the air freight industry: the airlines, both scheduled carriers and charter operators; the freight forwarders and cargo agents; ground transportation and other distributors; and the increasingly important express package sector.

The exhibition includes specialised handling equipment and the various publications serving the industry.



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REHEARSAL TIME: at the Northern Ballet and (below) the Royal Northern College of Music

Curtain up on Saturday night fever

THEATRES
Michael Morris

NOT since Manchester boasted 18 theatres in the early part of the century has show business boomed as it does now in these straitened times.

Full house notices are frequently displayed outside the four main theatres in the city centre, and alternative theatre in the metropolitan county is thriving in spite of cuts in Arts Council grants.

Saturday nights, especially, will find capacity audiences in the Palace Theatre, refurbished at a cost of £1.5 million before the big cuts; in the Opera House, restored to theatre this year after bingo; and in the space-age auditor-

um of the Royal Exchange Theatre.

Bob Scott, a driving force behind all three ventures, and the man who plans to bring the Olympic Games to Manchester, is convinced that saturation point is not yet reached.

When asked if he was worried that the Palace might have an effect on the opening of the Opera House, he replied: "If everyone living within an hour's drive of the centre of Manchester came to the theatre once a year, we would need 20 more theatres."

Clearly, Mr Scott does not expect the figures to get back to what they were in 1918. But the discovery through television of quality performances has tickled a desire to see the best in the flesh. For instance, the Palace Theatre is shortly to have the National Theatre award-

winning production of *Guys and Dolls*, and the Opera House is giving the New York production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. And the Royal Exchange is keeping a high cultural standard in the face of considerable financial uncertainty.

The Pirates, performed in Britain's newest provincial theatre, has just opened to literally five times its advance bookings in London.

Mr Scott cannot be far out in summing up the scene as "magic". A drive around the city centre on Saturday nights reveals streets and squares packed with the cars of theatre-goers. Restaurants appear to be doing well before and after the shows.

In some ways the spectacle of Manchester as a new theatre capital can be attributed to the Thatcherite principle of self-help. Neither the Palace nor the Opera House depends on public grants for running costs, though the refurbishing and stage extension of the former did get grant-aid.

Yet the Library Theatre, in the city centre, and the Forum at Wythenshawe, are directly run by the city council, although nobody could reasonably suggest that either theatre is politically controlled, since the politicians do not dictate artistic policy.

It is in Greater Manchester's smaller theatres, community centres, pubs, and pedestrian squares that the seed corn of the future is being sown, as the alternative theatre generates fresh talent and writing.

Raphael Gonley, director of

North West Arts, which channels funds to such ventures, says they are even more important today when, thanks to Government funding policy, the Arts Council is forced to play safe.



Mr Gonley allows that some people — he might say many people — will welcome the tendency of the Opera House and other big theatres not to put on the more adventurous work. But it can be argued that the bottom line of such a policy is bingo, since "providing what the public wants" is the equivalent of the pop music top ten.

"Culturally, life exists beyond the four or five major theatres in Manchester," Mr Gonley says.

It certainly does. In Greater Manchester, for example, there is Community Arts Workshop, based in the Collyhurst district but serving the whole county, a similar venture in Rochdale named Cartwheel, and another in working class Hulme.

There are, besides, the innovative Contact Theatre in Manchester, the M6 theatre company in Rochdale, and Pit Prop in Wigan, the last of which specialises in young people's theatre plus theatre-in-education.

Bolton Octagon and Oldham Coliseum have made their mark as repertory theatres, tending to work in the area between pot-boilers and experimental plays.

The amateur scene, too, is strong, sometimes reaching professional heights, as at Salford Playhouse. And arts centres in Bury and Oldham are a platform for touring companies.

Alternative arts are promoted by the Green Room agency, at venues ranging from the Royal Northern College of Music, to a wine bar in the city centre.

Stella Hall, administrator and artistic director of the Green Room calls it Manchester's arts centre without a building. It promotes professional theatre, music, cabaret, dance, and "anything else exciting." It is funded through North West Arts, Manchester City Council, and a source of cultural finance now threatened with extinction.

the Greater Manchester Council.

An alternative version of Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is among the agency's imported productions, but some of the more bizarre examples include a male body builder, in a performance using sound, light, dance, film, and sports, including weight lifting.

One company performed at the RNCM in a huge tank containing 1,000 gallons of water, with actors on a scaffolding tower, declaiming weird dialogue to portend the speech of nuclear holocaust survivors.

Traditional or otherwise, theatres in the metropolitan area are buzzing in a way that other provincial cities are not. As Mr Scott puts it: "Other provincial cities have not got these theatres in full hush and cry, but Manchester is having a golden period."

The lesson, then, seems to be that the prestige theatres have learned to look after themselves by offering the first rate. But the work going on in the smaller theatres and venues — must be helped.

Creative work outside Manchester's big theatres cannot hope to survive, however, if the Government exploits the commitment of dedicated people who are suffering excessively tight budgets and low pay. Without that commitment many projects could not exist.

Both approaches, traditional and alternative, are part of a thrilling resurgence of theatre at a time of cultural gloom elsewhere.

The banks that like to say yes to the men in the middle

BANKING
George Trafford

WHILE Greater Manchester's industrial sector has been taking the brunt of the merciless trading conditions of recent years, the banks have managed to appear prosperously unmoved by it all.

Physical evidence of confidence in banking and its allied sectors — insurance, building societies, stockbroking — has shown strongly in impressive new buildings and refurbishments in city-centre Manchester and in the county's other major towns.

But the impression that banking has been unaffected by economic upheavals is, of course, misleading. Shifting commercial conditions have forced the banks to look to their laurels. Some highly significant changes have been taking place inside those impressive edifices.

For one thing, margins on lending to big industrial groups have been squeezed uncomfortably, forcing the banks to seek fresh commercial fields. Important among these is the one known to bankers as the "middle market" — the medium-sized companies which may lack the glamour of the ICIs but which currently seem to offer Britain's best growth potential.

Competition for this important middle market has heated up sharply. In turn, this has done nothing to harm Manchester's reputation as Britain's major banking centre outside London.

North-west industry may, indeed, have suffered badly from the recession, but there is still expansion potential among small and medium-sized companies with astute eyes on the right markets. Many are weathering the storm, using the flexibility of their modest size to adapt to changing world market conditions.

Greater Manchester abounds with companies that fit into this category and the banks have been quick to spot the need to get close to potential new investments. The banking sector has become more aggressive in its salesmanship — and more professional in the bargain. In the long run, it is the customer who benefits; the fact that the big banks are more active and prolific in their services usually means they are doing more business on the spot, rather than over the phone from London.

Overseas banks — though always strongly represented in Manchester — have also been moving in, though with two additional motives. One is to be on the spot for international deals involving the countries of origin and companies based in the North-west, the other to provide straightforward consumer services for ethnic groups.

These influences have combined to accelerate growth in what has long been an expanding sector. Manchester now has more branches of banks, insurance companies and building societies (and more members of the Stock Exchange) than any other centre outside the capital.

More than 40 overseas banks are represented in the City of Manchester, while the financial services provided by domestic banking and ancillary operations, such as finance houses, have spread into hundreds of branches

and offices in the ten districts of the County.

The origins of the growth owe much to Manchester's geographical position, close to the traditional manufacturing centres of the North of England. This laid the foundations for a solid infrastructure of support services — accountancy, insurance, legal — which remains.

With this background, it is fitting for Manchester to be building a new reputation for itself within the international banking community. At Manchester Business School, the International Banking Centre is now widely recognised as the leading authority in management development courses.

Under Dr Jim Byrne, now Director of the banking centre, MBS developed its expertise in the field to the point where, this year, it expects to run 40 specialist courses, averaging 2.4 weeks and attended by a total of 800 bankers at senior or middle level. The majority of these courses will deal with domestic or international corporate lending and will be tailored to the needs of the banks concerned.



The "tailored" courses will be backed by a programme of general, open banking courses run by MBS. But it is the specialist courses that have attracted international attention.

"We offer to run courses of any banking topic, anywhere, in the world," says Dr Byrne, and the boast is not an idle one. The banking centre maintains that it does not have a standard banking course, rather an expertise and skill that enables it quickly to develop courses according to the requirements of banks all over the world.

Other business schools may have overlooked this need, though some are catching up fast. With a decade of experience behind it, the MBS has a head-start — just as Manchester's banking community had when the need arose to adapt to changed economic circumstances.

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Greater Manchester

THE GUARDIAN Friday March 22 1985 19

The country on your doorstep, east as the skylark flies

ENVIRONMENT
David Ward

THE wildlife may cough a bit, but at least it's there: as we walked down from Newton Hall, across the Peak forest and into the Tame valley, four magpies took flight and a skylark skillfully skirted the industrial estate and the sewage works in search of a patch of sky suitable for an afternoon of song.

He sounded cheerful, as well he might: beneath him was a sizeable area of open grassland where before had been an eye-offending rubbish tip. For those of us on the ground, there were other signs of improvement and a bridge, steps and young trees. As rural environments go, it's not perfect: the sewage works will take some time to get rid of the smells and the odd bedstead still finds its way into the river.

But there is space to walk, picnic, ride a horse, fly a kite and potter: a valuable asset in the midst of the densely populated areas of Denton, Dinkinfield and Audenshaw, just five miles east of the centre of Manchester as the skylark flies.

This patch of green is not an isolated oasis: the whole of the Tame Valley, 20 miles from the Pennines to Stockport, is in the process of clean-up and conservation. And the Tame valley is itself not unique: it is one of nine river valleys being spruced up within Greater Manchester.

Much good work has already been done and each valley has its particular attractions. Nob End in the Croal/Well valley near Bolton can boast rare plants which have colonised the from old chemical works. The Mersey valley has at its heart the Sale and Chorlton water parks — motorway excavations now colonised by sailing dinghies, windsurfers, water skiers and scuba divers.

As the current Mersey Valley Newsletter shows, the water has attracted other visitors. The severe winter saw a large number of rare and unusual birds. These include smew, snipe, goosander, red-necked grebe and ferruginous duck. At one time, the letter continues, there were 800 peacocks, 50 tufted ducks and 20 goldeneyes together on Chorlton lake, not to mention 70 cormorants perched on the electricity pylons one crisp January day.

All this, again, within five miles of the city centre in an area bounded by crowded suburbs, rattling railways and some of the busiest stretches of motorway in the country.

That a whiff of the countryside has been brought into the city is cause enough for rejoicing. But there is a bonus: each river valley has a team of wardens who sell the environment hard. They talk to schools and clubs, encourage conservation volunteers and above all help the public make sense of what it sees.

Mersey Valley's head warden, Duncan Stokes, can boast of a programme of events which includes lectures and an imaginative programme of walks: a full moon walk beginning at 11 pm complemented later by a dawn chorus walk, plus pond dipping and "earth magic" — a sensory immersion in the natural world.

None of this would have been possible without some hard work. Some land reclamation had begun in the river valleys before the GMC was created in 1974, but the council claims that, in spite of the efforts of Lancashire County Council, no one had till then been able to consider the valleys as a whole.

The landscape in the county looked pretty bleak in 1974: 10,000 acres of dereliction (more than any other county in the country) plus miles of filthy rivers. Almost a third of the land in Wigan was defined as derelict. Since then 3,000 acres have been reclaimed and more than nine million trees have been planted. More than half of the rescued land has been made available for recreation; the rest has gone for agriculture, housing and industry.

The river valleys' clean-up has been the result of a partnership between the GMC and the district councils, plus the water authority and other interested parties.

"After local government reorganisation in 1974," said Peter Webster, assistant county planning officer, "duties involving environmental protection and recreational development were not clearly defined. The GMC and the districts quickly decided that there should be no overlap and no duplication."

The river valleys, no respecters of administrative boundaries, esied out for co-operation. It was therefore agreed that each valley would have its own management committee with an equal number of councillors from each authority through which a particular river passed and each council agreed to make available to the management committee the valley land which it owned and which was necessary for the project.

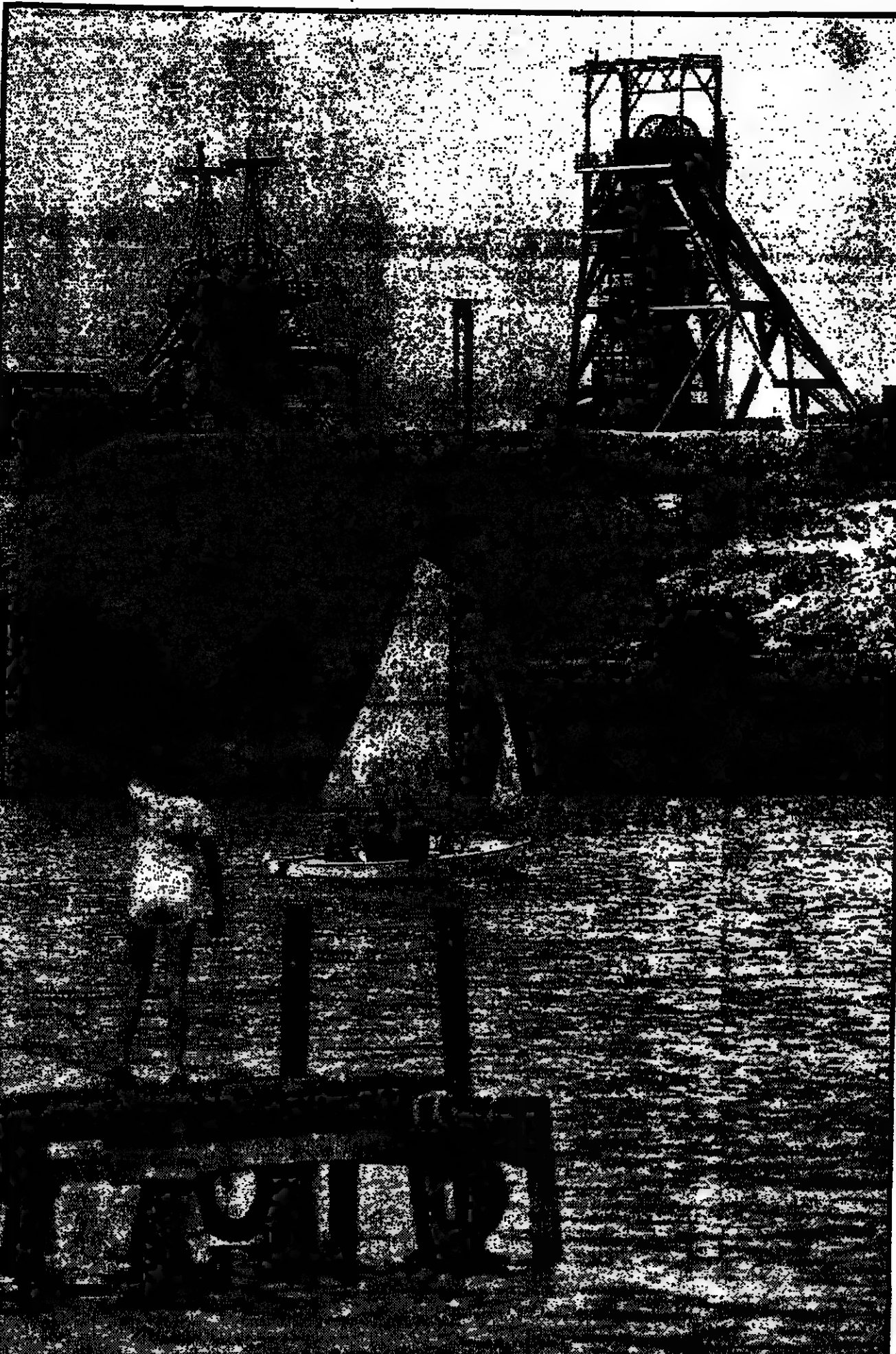
The GMC in turn agreed to fund all capital works and to meet the cost of wardens and land maintenance; any income from the land (hay crops and the like) would go to the management committee, which was also responsible for a strategy plan for turning that plan into action and for the management of the land in accord with local recreational needs.

The present state of the valleys suggests that cooperation has paid off (even if the amount of derelict land within the county actually increased between 1974 and 1982, since a profound recession creates new squalor).

"The scheme has worked because it has had all-party support," said Peter Webster, "and because the GMC was prepared to put in the funds and make sure the money was spent in the right place. Our main concern is that after 1986, there will no longer be a funding body and that the district councils will find it difficult to match the level of funding and expertise that we have put in."

"The Mersey valley, for example, has a budget for 1985-86 of £238,000. With the best will in the world, it will be difficult for the districts to find that kind of money. What happens if Manchester can afford to pay the wardens but its partners — Stockport and Trafford — can't?"

One long-term result might be that the goosander and the snipe might not come to call and, over in Audenshaw, the skylark might cease to sing so sweetly.



Pennington Flash Country Park, Leigh

Come and have a word

CONFERENCES
Michael Wren

GMC's new conference manager, Mr Bernard Owen, aims to bring the county firmly on the international conference map. With three universities offering thousands of free beds on campus during the summer months as well as five major hotels in the city, with another four currently under construction, as well as many more modest establishments, Mr Owen's motto: "We have bedpower here," seems no idle boast.

Up to a couple of months ago Mr Owen was sales manager for the Wembley Conference Centre, and in his new role he intends to push hard to deprive the capital of some of the conference dates it can well afford to lose.

The conference field keeps Mr Owen busy. "The sky's the limit," he explained when I finally managed to track him down in his office at 5.15 pm one day, I having politely declined the offer of a working breakfast. Mr Owen estimates the present value of conference business to the city at between two and two and a half million pounds. When G-MEX, the transformation of the old Central Station site into a major exhibition centre, is completed next year, there is the potential substantially to increase this business.

With this in mind the Midland Hotel just across the road from G-MEX is undergoing a facelift costing several million pounds. Specially equipped conference rooms at the hotel will have facilities for seminars.

The conference field can be broken into two, Mr Owen explained — the corporate meeting and the corporate meeting. In the second category Manchester scores very well with national companies, occupying a central position in the country and being on the hub of the motorway network. In the first category Mr Owen sees the growth in international business as the key to expansion.

With the pound-dollar ratio in our favour as regards tourism from the United States, Mr Owen plans to go after conference business in the US, and British Airways' new three-flights-a-week service from Manchester to New York is central to his plans. He aims to organise a series of workshops in New York to promote Manchester. "We can offer an attractive package to American organisations," he said. "It could well now be cheaper for them to organise their conference in Manchester than in Miami."

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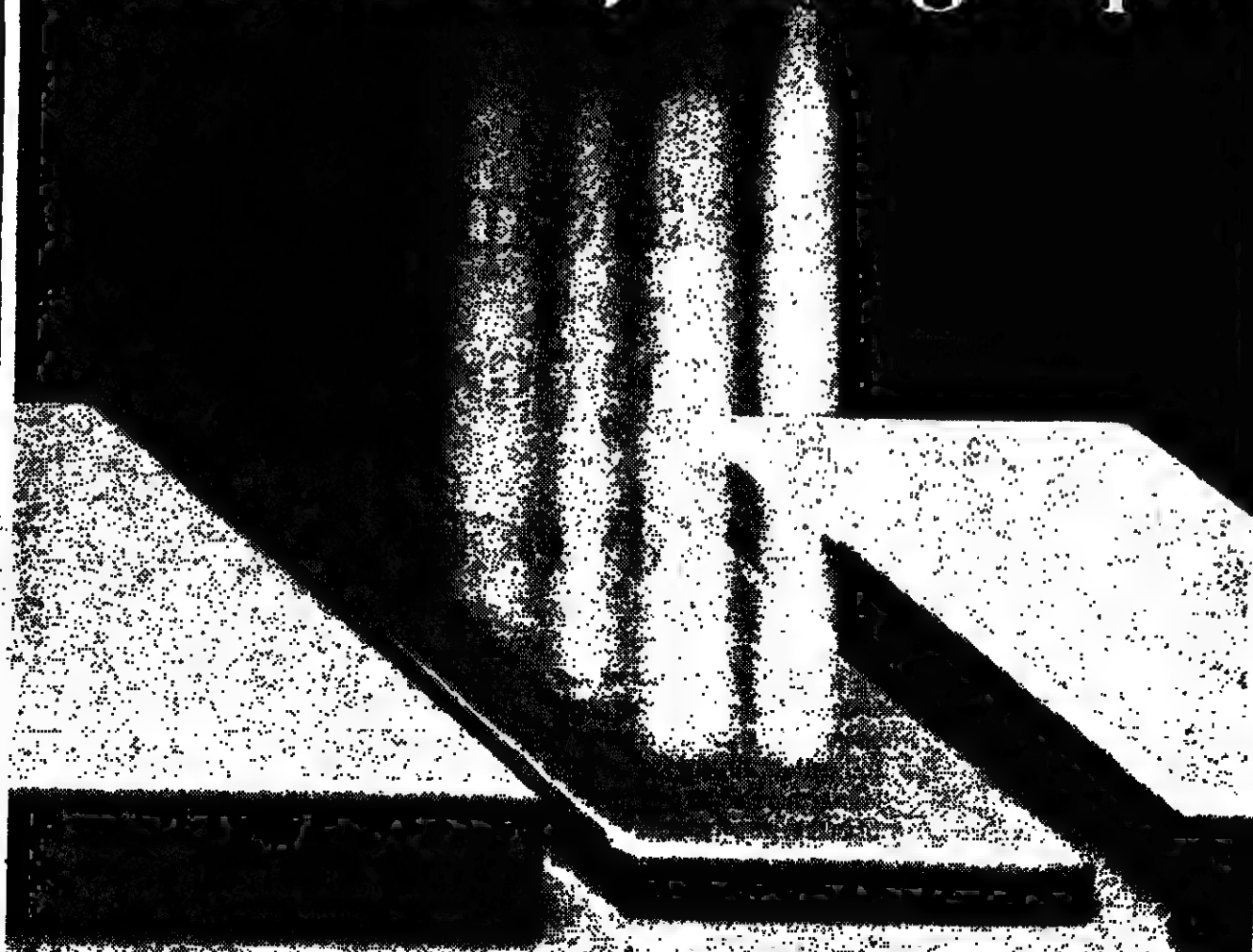
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Here's Stephen Botteley presenting a good case for using a little bit of Rempoy

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CENTRAL STATION
James Lewis

The train hall, a fine example of Victorian architecture, lies at the heart of a 26-acre site which includes former warehouses and other old railway property, and which had posed a problem for the planners until Greater Manchester Council formed a

The group decided to form a company, G-MEX, to refurbish the train hall and to equip it as an exhibition centre which with 10,000 square metres of uninterrupted display space under a single roof, will be

the largest of its kind in the country. Because of site difficulties, and the state of the building, it has been a costly project and the final bill will amount to more than £20 million, to which the EEC is contributing £4.3 million. GMC is meeting half of the remainder, with assistance from the

Department of Environment under the Urban Programme.
When it is not serving as an exhibition venue, the centre, with up to 10,000 seats, will stage sporting and cultural events such as international basketball, ice-skating, pantomime, pop concerts and world circuit tennis.

The station development

alone should stimulate employment in the long term for about 1,300 people. The spin-off for the economy of the region could be even greater, with an estimated demand for nearly 130,000 bed-nights each year for hotels in the county. Just as importantly, however, the opening of the

exhibition centre is expected to stimulate the development of the surrounding area. Extensive car-parking provision has already been made and there are prospects for a new hotel on the site, which is only a short distance away from the Free Trade Hall and the Castlefield Urban Heritage Park.

The centre will be opened next March with an inaugural exhibition called Enterprise North-West, sponsored by GMC and supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of British Industry.



TOURISM
Michael Wren

MANCHESTER AIR and the **MANCHESTER** which won the **Civic Trust** award soon after it opened in 1983, may soon be faced with a unique problem — or so someone has it. Manchester-built **Avro Shackleton** airborne early warning aircraft (or bits of it anyway) is pressed back into service to help solve a problem of unprecedented delay in the Nimrod AEW programme that the Shackleton, called **Dougal** after the Magic Roundabout, was the only aircraft in service with a Squadron at **Lossiemouth** until November 1982, might possibly have to rejoin its other Magic Roundabout duties by keeping a close track of Soviet intrusions into our airspace.

If so, as the keeper of the museum, Mr Peter Batson explained, the aircraft will have to be dismantled nut from bolt to get it out of the splendid Victorian iron-framed market hall which houses the museum, the same way as it came in.

The displays and exhibits

reflect the Greater Manchester area's rich contribution to aeronautical history. There is, too, a selection of items provided recently by the Smithsonian in Washington of the American space programme which has proved very popular, especially with younger visitors.

The city's connection with the development of aviation will be celebrated on April 28 this year when a Tiger Moth biplane will fly from London to Manchester to inaugurate the opening of the new versary of Louis 'Pauhan' and his epic non-stop flight in a Farman biplane in 1910 to win the 10,000 pounds prize offered by the Daily Mail. The Tiger Moth will land at Manchester's Warton flying field, the actual landing site, a couple of miles away in Burnage, is now covered by a council estate. As well as a fair and displays at Hough End, the museum hopes that British special flights from Manchester Airport to mark the event.

The Air and Space Museum is one of the attractions of Castlefield, Britain's first urban heritage park, which has brought new life to a formerly run down area of the city. The area contains, apart

from the Air and Space Museum, the remains of the Roman fort, built around 78-86 AD, which was excavated recently by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit and the Greater Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, which incorporates the world's first passenger railway station — Liverpool Road — built in 1830 for the Liverpool and Manchester railway.

How Liverpool Road station has remained in being in its largely unaltered state is a fortunate accident of history as the railway terminus in Manchester was moved to Hunt's Bank not long afterwards, and Liverpool Road was left to moulder, largely unknown and unnoticed, cluttered with its low-level platforms and late Georgian architecture. The station itself has now been restored, housing an exhibition devoted to the railway and some fine offices housing the museum staff.

The museum opened in September 1983 and in its first year attracted 250,000 visitors. It is still far from complete. Current major projects under way include work on the Grade 1 listed buildings in Liverpool Road adjacent to the station. These buildings, which were originally shops, will contain an exhibition entitled the Greater Manchester Story, which will detail the origins and growth of the world's first great industrial conurbation.

And just across the railway track in the fine old warehouse (built in 1850) where the first goods were loaded, work is now under way to transform the building into Britain's first major exhibition devoted to the subject of electricity. The exhibition is being sponsored by the Electricity Council. The Electricity Gallery will contain the generator from Bolton power station, a 125 megawatt steam turbine built in 1922 by English Electric. The massive machine will be sectioned to show its working parts and will allow visitors to walk through the condenser.

The gallery will complement the existing displays in the Power Hall, which tell the story of industrial power from earliest times to the present day. Many fascinating exhibits are regularly demonstrated, including the largest collection of working stationary steam engines in the world. There are railway engines too, and April 8 will be

a special working day on the railway when all the engines will be in steam.

In the Lower Bryorn Street Warehouse, visitors can see the machines that made possible the development of the textile industry from Hargreaves's Spinning Jenny and the power loom to the modern machines. The machines are working and the operators are able to take in raw cotton at one end of the museum and produce finished cloth at the other end. The museum is devoted to the history of paper making and another of the development of the electronic computer, the first one of which was made by the University of Manchester. University by Williams and Kilburn in 1948.

The Castlefield project is giving a welcome boost to Greater Manchester's tourism potential. It combines the already well-known attractions offered by the Manchester Museum, close to the university on Oxford Road, which has a fine natural history collection and where the work of the Egypt and Mummies Departments has made significant contribution to scientific knowledge. The mummies and artefacts here are imaginatively displayed. Close by is the famous Whitworth Art Gallery, which is one of the best in the City. The new Manchester City Art Gallery contains Britain's finest collection of pre-Raphaelite paintings.

On the outskirts of Greater Manchester at Wigan a development is taking place which, like Castlefield, aims to give new lease of life to a run-down inner-city area. The Wigan Pier project is now part-way complete. George Orwell's personification of inner-city hopelessness and decay having been transformed into a major tourist attraction.

Here a Victorian warehouse adjacent to the canal has been turned into a pub and restaurant with other lettings nearby. Work has started on converting the largest warehouse on the site into the Wigan Pier Heritage Centre. The aim is to tell the history of Wigan as experienced by ordinary people. A key part of the project is likely to be locations like the 'typical back parlour at the turn of the century, or a corner shop. Real people will play the parts of millgirls, miners and the like in a "role-play" approach which has been used by the United States but not so far before in Britain.

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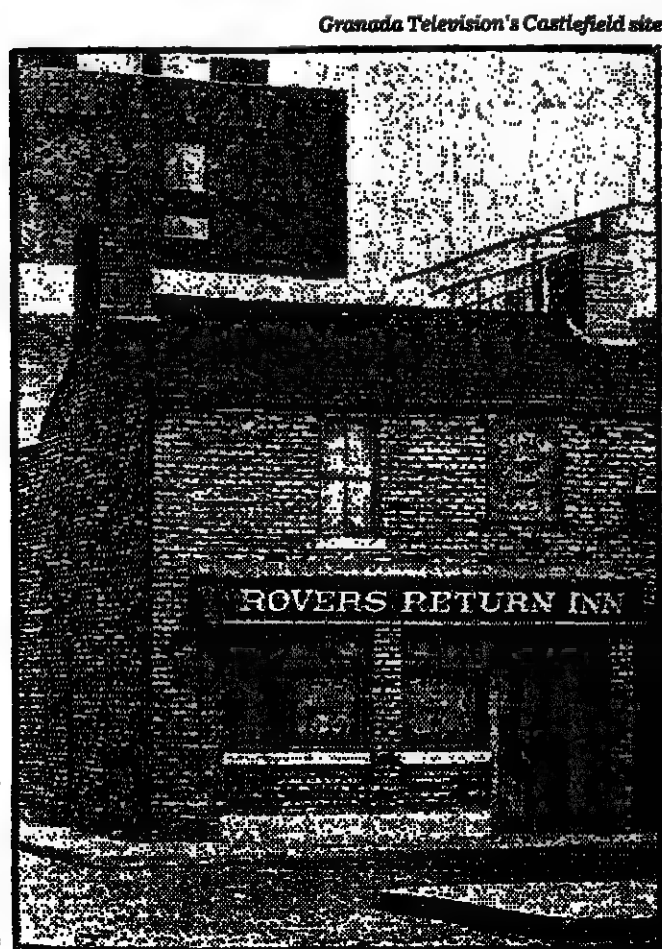
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DIARY

THE HOME Office has not sent the document which describes the hypothesis of the nuclear winter to emergency planning officers in county councils round the country, but it has sent them all a document produced by retired American government scientist which attacks the hypothesis in virulent terms.

Mr Eric H. Alley, civil defence adviser at the Home Office, wrote to EPOs last November enclosing the document and referring to the author, Cresson H. Kearny, as "our friend". The Plain Cymru MP, Dafydd Elis Thomas raised questions about the letter with Giles Shaw, a junior Home Office minister, who said the circular was a response to requests for information from EPOs and had his full support, but did not state Government policy.

Thomas points out that the nuclear winter hypothesis, called TTAPS after the names of its authors, is the result of detailed scientific work. It says it would be very likely that a nuclear war would generate so much smoke and dust that the sun would be blocked, the temperature would fall and agriculture would fail. The Government's response, he says, is to distribute a politically motivated, scientifically unsound libel on TTAPS by a retired American crank.

Kearny's document says that the nuclear winter is being "propagandised as established scientific fact" in the interests of "the nuclear freeze, unilateral nuclear disarmament and/or other political causes." The hypothesis is "error-ridden," he says, and the "ongoing anti-defence campaign in Britain is likely to produce destabilising weakness and piece-meal capitulation to expanding Soviet tyranny."

Of the TTAPS, a Home Office spokesman said last night: "We haven't circulated it and have no plan to do so."

SOME TIPS for travel living from the DHSS guide to Non-essential minor household items "i.e. the ones you can't get grants for if you're living on Supplementary Benefit."

"Doormat: consider whether it can be removed before entering the house. A piece of cardboard mat also provides an alternative."

Whisk: suitable alternative is a fork. Most chefs prefer to use a fork. Bread board: not needed if sliced bread used. Open places a tea towel, suitable folded, provides an alternative item. Lamp pot and kettle: there is nothing to prevent soup being poured directly from the saucepan into the bowl.

Milk jug: the milk can be poured into the bowl.

Marketing Board advice that milk be stored in the sterile bottle in which it is delivered. And so on.

AMONG his other misadventures, Captain Bob has presided over the brutalisation of Noddy. "You know how the original fact is, it's like saying Steve Hubbard, of Naughty Gnomes Limited, 'Well, now it's like a plastic extruded doll'—they've redesigned him for a big push in the spring."

Robert Maxwell owns Parrell books, which owns Noddy and Hubbard has been in negotiation with them over his plans to market a wooden clock with a Noddy face. It was a hard bargain and they're taking £385 and 6 per cent of sales off him. "The contract's for one year only, and there's four pages of do's and don'ts," he said.

MR AND MRS Patrick Jenkin are about to get one of those notorious Greater London Council handouts which have motivated the Minister to abolish the GLC. The pair help to run the Wandsworth Woodford Association for the Welfare of the Blind and the Wandsworth Woodford Association for the Welfare of the Deaf. The GLC necessary £4,700 instead, and Ken Livingstone is not going to miss the opportunity of saying yes quickly.

THE ARTIST Tomi Ungerer sounds off in Time Out this week against the women who closed off part of his contribution to an exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall. He refers to the women's committee chairman, as "SS Wise" and "Valerian," as a herb with a nasty smell, and invites her to visit him and rescue his wife "who, as everybody knows, is chained in his pictures of female humiliation argue for the same goals as women's liberation," for women and not manipulated as just objects devoted for male gratification. He concludes: "We live in a mediocrity and it's more than expected to find a certain amount of sultry fatality in even the wisest militant."

Stephen Cook

STANDING up for democracy—aggressively. If you mean to win—is back in high fashion for the first time since the Fifties. The American neo-conservatives and their European fellow-travellers are giving so strong a lead that their sureheads, Mr Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, have come to look a bit wet.

The counter-attack against Communist subversion, Marxist doublethink, Bulgarian connections, loony journalists and lecturers, nuclear disarmers and other dreamers is being fought with books, periodicals, money, a determined attitude in the Commons, arms talks—and The Committee for the Free World.

The American flagship is Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, who is not waiting for her release from official office in just a week's time before indicating that she finds Bonnie too thick. Among officials with no intention of leaving, the fight is led by Richard Pyle, the US Assistant Secretary of Defence, who has branded Sir Geoffrey Howe's reservation on State Wars as shallow and ignorant as well as wrong.

Intellectual back-up in the United States comes from Norman Podhoretz in Commentary, Richard Pipes, his forerunner Irving Kristol, Elie Kedourie and others. Over here, Mrs Thatcher leads so resolute an intellectual support is sometimes elusive.

They are remarkably well represented in the House of Lords: Chalfont, Bauer, Weidenfeld, Quinton (President of Trinity), Thompson (Hugh), Robertson, Chapple (Frank—who says he is member of "the world's largest party—the ex-Communists"), support is channelled through Melvyn Laskey's Encounter, the Times (Roger Scruton), the Daily Telegraph (Peregrine Woodhouse), and the columns of Brian Crozier and Paul Johnson.

In France the death of Raymond Aron left Jean-François Revel to speak for the movement, which is the latest with a gathering of distinguished exiles like Vladimir Bukowski, and joined in occasional skirmishes by international statesmen of the past like Malcolm Fraser of Australia.

Everyone mentioned above, except Mr Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, who both sent warm greetings, and 180 others, met in tight security this week at the Royal Garden Hotel in London, about 300 yards from the Soviet Embassy, to propose strategies and put new muscle into the campaign.

The four-year-old Committee for the Free World aims to "alter the climate of confusion, complacency, apathy and self-denial that has done so much to weaken Western civilisation."

Their countries' continued viability and even existence as free societies.

That Reagan and Thatcher are clearly only free leaders, not leaders, was clear when Midge Decker, the New York executive director of the Committee, mentioned the Geneva talks. These were set up, she said, "in response to the combined pressure of our own anti-militarists and our critics in Europe. If they fail—and we hope and pray they will—we will be able to turn back the tide against the Soviet Union."

Jeanne Kirkpatrick criticised Reagan for continuing to buy bananas from Nicaragua ("If they survive the whole of Central and Latin America, they will be Communist").

A fine moment came when Lord Bauer, an Irish, white-haired Mephistopheles, turned on Mrs Kirkpatrick and challenged her to say if she thought the Soviet Union was giving aid to Ethiopia. She confessed that they were, but made it clear she disapproved. "We should not finance the consolidation of tyranny," she said. The maxim was "recognition of our duty

and interest in helping people who are resisting tyranny to help themselves. That includes Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Cambodia."

Mr Pyle, who enjoys being the "Prince of Darkness" since Dennis Healey called him that, said it was "patronising and absurd" to claim that Mr Reagan would now embrace the "monstrously false theory of detente of the 1970s in order to ensure his place in history."

The only arms agreement being sought was one that would "significantly constrain the growth of Soviet military power while limiting our own proportionately."

A provisional consensus emerged that while Marxist-Leninism inside the Soviet block may still be a threat, it was in fact quite dead. It had degenerated into "an incoherent, shabby mixture of Marxist phrases with nationalist slogans, imperial glory and racism. It was Bolshevism without Marxism," said the Polish historian Leszek Kolakowski.

However, this ideology, like Danish Blue, was primarily for export, according to Lord Quinton. At home, even without ideology, the system was immutable.

This thought led to much scorn being poured on journalists and politicians who had hailed Gorbachev as the new king of Camelot because he was young and supposedly



From top left, clockwise: Jeanne Kirkpatrick; "no banner"; Hugh Thompson; "memorable afternoon"; Lord Chalfont; "knows the difference"; Richard Pyle; "Prince of Darkness"; Frank Chapple; "large party"; George Weidenfeld; "patriotism transcending borders"

WALTER SCHWARZ attends this week's conference of the Committee for the Free World

Fellow travelling with the loony right



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Nothing could be more "pernicious," Mrs Kirkpatrick said, than the tendency to equate the super-powers "like two scorpions in a bottle." It was terribly important that the US sought to maintain a world of independent nations — "otherwise we cannot be counted on to maintain that kind of struggle on our own."

The difference to note was that between totalitarian and authoritarian regimes. The latter, like Gorbachev, laid no institutional claim to infallibility and could be replaced by democracy.

Lord Thomas seemed to carry British sycophancy to its extreme when he said the afternoon of Kirkpatrick's

address was "one of the most memorable I have ever spent," and that her wisdom would prove "seminal for our discussions for a very long time."

In all, the occasion had given Lord Thomas the comforting reassurance that "we are not just a bunch of disgruntled defeatists and counter-revolutionaries, not just White Russian taxi drivers in Paris, but engaged in a highly important enterprise."

And yet these crusaders were really united at all. Hardly any of them seemed to notice the deep subterranean rifts that appeared. They could be read clearly in the messages of support from the two main sponsors.

Mrs Thatcher's message asking them to keep the ideological flag flying urged them also "to examine the current prospects for East-West relations and how Western interests in a safer and more stable relationship can best be achieved."

Reagan's message said pretty much the opposite. His idea of the meeting's theme was "how a decent political order might one day replace the terrible tyranny of Communism."

Pete may well have been right in selecting the notion that Reagan was seeking a peacemaker's place in history. Could our own Mrs Thatcher be stepping into the role?

Is the great battle for hearts and minds being won? Here, too, there was dismay. Pave Tigris of Radio Free Europe said the "not has set in" for the Soviet system, which had "failed whenever the Western alliance has not given in."

Leading the pessimists, Brian Crider saw the enemy as pretty solid still. "It would not take much worsening to make the situation irretrievable."

The deepest gloom was reserved for terrorism, a "form of warfare" which had become the "gravest threat" seen by Paul Johnson. Lord Chalfont, presenting himself as an expert, thought definitions here were not important. "We cannot define it, but we all know the difference between freedom fighters and a band of terrorists."

What is to be done then? The assembled academics failed to agree on a joint programme. Lord Weidenfeld wanted a "new patriotism, transcending borders." Lady Cox wanted Nato to set aside one per cent of the budget for "psychological defence" against subversion in schools and colleges.

Someone called for "tightly-knit groups of politically motivated men" to combat subversive ideas, preferably financed by the USA. Podhoretz said no such money would be forthcoming and Malcolm Fraser said any nation not prepared to foot those sort of bills could not be defended.

On this note they ended. Nobody had really mentioned that a nuclear war occurring through accident or mismanagement might cause damage worse than subversion. Sensing that this point was an obstacle, Reed Irving told how he had founded a group called "Accuracy in the Media." This group had tried to stop the screening in West Germany of the film The Day After because it might worsen the prospects for cruise and Pershing.

A certain recklessness on nuclear matters seemed summed up by Bukowski when he said: "We know they cannot afford the SDI so for God's sake let's not cancel it."

Close to despair, Podhoretz recalled how George Kennan and other critics of the arms race had talked quite differently in 1947 about the need to defend democracy. "There was no rational reason for the public to believe that there, Kennan might have pointed out that the nuclear arms race had not started then, and that perfecting the image of the evil empire might be one way to make it erupt into war."

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ANTHONY TUCKER examines the small print of yesterday's EEC agreement

Slow burn

BRITAIN'S motor industry, like those of France and Italy, will be breathing more easily because, in a diplomatic and practical way, they have been allowed to evade the sharp edge of environmental controls. Although the EEC's environmental ministers agreed in Brussels yesterday to a phased introduction of low-pollution cars, beginning in 1989 with new models over 2 litres engine capacity, smaller cars will not be affected until 1993.

What is more—infiltrating so far the environmental lobby which have been fighting for lead reductions and cleaner air for almost two decades—the permitted levels of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides for low-pollution cars have yet to be agreed by EEC technical committees.

In the great acid rain saga, the contribution of motor vehicle exhaust pollution may be large, particularly through the generation of ozone as a secondary and locally damaging pollutant. It is largely for this reason that the West German Government has instituted new speed limits on the autobahns and is pressing hard for the early adoption of catalytic exhaust systems and the early general introduction of lead-free petrol. In Brussels, the West German Interior Minister, Friedrich Zimmermann, pushed for stringent standards but was left, more or less, to go the catalytic route alone.

Yet, at the end of the meeting, Zimmermann claimed that West Germany had achieved her aims because the EEC had made a general commitment to reduce vehicle pollution. Since, as was agreed in December, EEC countries are required to introduce lead-free petrol by 1989, the framework is now in place for different technological attacks on the problem.

One lead is out of some petrol it becomes possible to use catalytic converters on some cars, preferably large cars, where the elimination of hydrocarbons (the chemical reaction producing ozone) will be significant. But catalytic converters are a technological fix whose performance in the real world may be well below that in the laboratory.

The alternative is a better basic engine technology, which in Britain is seen very clearly as the "lean burn" engine. Engines of this type, which substantially reduce the major pollutants (if less effectively than a catalytic converter under laboratory conditions) should be becoming a commercial reality by 1989. So it seems that all the strands for the widespread and general introduction of low-pollution new cars will be in place by the end of the decade and, from then onward, the practical pressures will grow.

For all that, the Brussels agreement seems to provide the structure within which everyone can go on doing almost anything they are doing now, it also hints what is now to come. Embedded in a small print is an agreement to accept, in principle, tax incentives for the adoption of low pollution cars. West Germany, despite substantial opposition claiming that it was against the EEC principle of free trade, is to introduce tax incentives of up to 2000 marks on large cars and 750 marks on small cars (less than 1.4 litres capacity) from July 1.

From the nature of the agreement, the pressures for changes will be generated by the technical committees which, as such as ministers, are constrained by what is possible. But with Britain refusing to join the acid rain "30 per cent club" by declining to guarantee a reduction in sulphur emissions of 30 per cent by 1993 and holding firm to lead-free engines, the magic catalyst, her image in Europe and especially Scandinavia will now be blacker than ever. For the latest, the British Government imply that by 1993 traffic levels may be 30 per cent higher than now in Britain and that growth elsewhere may be faster. The Brussels agreement seems likely to do no more than make sure that things get no worse.



Twenty-five years after Sharpeville, the struggle continues. PATRICK LAURENCE reports from Johannesburg

Violence that puts forgotten areas on the map

TWENTY-FIVE years ago the Crossroads squatters in unlawful under the influx control laws. The squatters are under constant threat of forced removal and live in fear of police raids. Last month, the police snatched under the strain of reports that plans to move them to the huge and isolated settlement of Khayelitsha, more than 20 miles from Cape Town, were imminent.

The pass laws were declared "enemy number one" by blacks long before the Pan-Africanist Congress campaign for their abolition in March 1980 led to the Sharpeville shootings. They remain as a symbol of the wider policy of apartheid today as they did a quarter of a century ago.

As Professor Herman Glimmer and Lawrence Schleimer note in a recent book, "Influx control is an attempt by the state to keep in balance two opposing forces: the political exclusion of blacks and the economic need to restrict the number of blacks living in white-designated cities."

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the Crossroads squatters is unlawful under the influx control laws. The squatters are under constant threat of forced removal and live in fear of police raids. Last month, the police snatched under the strain of reports that plans to move them to the huge and isolated settlement of Khayelitsha, more than 20 miles from Cape Town, were imminent.

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synonym for black resistance to apartheid. But the resistance was not crushed. It continues in townships throughout South Africa today, with the protest at Sharpeville was passive, the resistance in the townships today is often violent, with petrol bombs, stones and knives.

A period of political quietness was followed by the rise of black consciousness in the late 1960s, and the consequent 1976 revolt against "Bantu education" by black schoolchildren. Subsequently the new resistance was manifested last year in renewed turmoil in black townships, especially those in the Vaal triangle, the Eastern Cape and the East Rand.

Although last year's unrest was at times infused with an anarchical element, it had an underlying structural direction: protest against rising rents; rejection of the partly autonomous township councils offered to blacks as an alternative to representation in the central government; renewed pressure for educational opportunities equal to those of the privileged whites; and for democratically-elected student representative councils.

The apparent anarchy and unifying theme: repudiation of all authority, emanating from a central government in which blacks were unrepresented.

When Mr Botha was planning his tri-racial parliament for whites, coloureds and Indians, he was warned by researchers at Rand Afrikaans University that exclusion of blacks from the "new deal" would raise their anger to new and dangerous levels. But he chose to ignore it, apparently preferring to believe that blacks would accept assurances that they would be catered for in the next phase of his reform programme.

The unrest did not abate, as Government officials hoped, with the closure of the Free State, Galesburg in the Northern Cape, Ikageng in the Western Transvaal, Crossroads in the Western Cape, and Langa in the East Rand.

But resistance is most starkly manifest in strikes by guerrillas, the latest incidents include a clash yesterday in which a policeman was injured, two guerrillas killed and a third arrested, and the placing of a time bomb on a public vehicle in a Pretoria township.

The "armed struggle" which was triggered by the banning of the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress after Sharpeville, received a major setback last year when ANC fighters were forced to leave Mozambique after the signing of the Nkomati accord between Pretoria and Maputo. But it did not cease altogether.

As the Minister of Law

and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, noted in parliament last week, 43 guerrillas have been involved in 15 incidents of sabotage and terror in the Western Transvaal since August last year. None of these incidents was reported in the media at the time, suggesting that the insurgency may have reached a higher intensity than the public realises, or is allowed to realise.

One result of Sharpeville was to quicken implementation of the then prime minister's master plan to create independent black nation states and to recruit black conservative allies for the white minority. A similar process continues under the pressure of events today. South Africa now has a tri-racial parliament for whites, Coloureds and Indians. The talk of consultation with "moderate black leaders" and creation of new political structures to accommodate blacks living permanently outside their designated "national states" or "homelands."

There are even, in the view of some observers, tentative moves towards negotiations with the ANC, a development which was foreseen four years ago when Vorster, managing director of the giant Afrikaans publishing company Nationale Pers and a respected figure of the Afrikaner political establishment, twenty-five years ago such possibility would have been unthinkable.

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GOOD
FOOD GUIDE

A BLACK MARKET is developing in Hong Kong for London restaurants at leases, now so valuable that they are seen as a solid investment. One place in Edgware Road with a mere three-year lease was being offered at £200,000. Another in Knightsbridge was offered last autumn at £215,000 for five years with a rent review due this summer that would take the payments up from £180 a week to £1,000 a week. That is on top of the premium.

Premium payments, or what used to be called key money, is the name of a very lucrative game. Christie's, the estate agents, report that they have 100 properties on their books in London and the home counties, and nearly 3,000 would-be buyers who range from couples looking to start their own business to French companies who want to open brasserie chains. One place was looked over by no fewer than 100 prospective buyers in under a week.

This pressure on the available space is one reason why restaurant food is so expensive. Both Kensington and Chelsea Council appear to frown on changes of use from shops to eating places. Restaurants, in planning terms, bring with them extra noise and rubbish, both of which are against them, especially if a councillor happens to live in that street.

As a result a sandwich bar with no seating at all can change hands for a premium payment of as much as £80,000 in central London. It takes a lot of cheese sandwiches to pay back that amount of bread.

Waiter, this stake is overdrawn

Eating out may seem expensive, but wait till you see how much the restaurant costs, Drew Smith reports

Nico Ladenis at Chez Nico: no country hotel in view — picture by Roger Tooth

A substantial proportion of any restaurant bill goes directly to the property men. And on a balance sheet the costs are fixed whether you serve steak and chips or aim to set standards of good food. Really dictates that we should eat steak and chips at small tables, packed densely into small rooms. Any variation on that principle translates into extra costs which the customer has to pay for.

In France most chefs agree that there is no money to be made running a three star Michelin restaurant. It just costs too much to set up and to run. But the three star restaurants there tend to be cheaper than here, partly because they have a higher turnover and partly because the compensatory spin-off deals tend to be more lucrative. Add to this that many of the best French restaurants paid off their freehold generations ago, leaving them proof against horrendous rent reviews.

Rightly or wrongly, the British Michelin gives three stars to two restaurants, Le Gavroche in London, and The Waterside Inn at Bray. It is doubtful whether either makes very much profit in its own right, in spite of charging upwards of £40 a head for dinner. The flagships are supported by their ancillary

businesses and smaller restaurants.

The economics of opening a prestige restaurant in Britain are terrifying. One estimate for a new luxury restaurant in Mayfair went as high as £3 million. When the Dorchester was revamped at a total cost of £15 million, the kitchens and the new Terrace dining room consumed a hefty share.

Three years ago, Raymond Blanc began to set up his dream restaurant, Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, at Great Milton in Oxfordshire. He bought the old manor, previously a family house, for £350,000, and then spent £350,000 restoring it. He borrowed nearly £400,000 from the bank, and raised as much again through private investors on a tax incentive scheme which locks their money up for five years. He also got a courageous £100,000 from the English Tourist Board, who saw the potential draw of such a venture near an "international" city.

To break even on those economics, M. Blanc says the Manoir has to take £70,000 a month. A third of that will come from the ten bedrooms, at £100-plus a night each. Then there are 75 seats in the restaurant and theoretically if all were taken each

night at an average spend of say £40 a head, then 75 x 40 x 5 = £15,000 a week and so on. It is not easy, but it is hardly surprising that it is expensive. But at those prices it has to be very, very good, or it would go broke very, very quickly.

The Manoir project would be even more expensive today. Last year, Nico Ladenis of Chez Nico contemplated a similar project outside Newbury in a Grade 2 listed Queen Anne building advertised for £450,000. The restoration costs inflated that to £1½ million. And then the local council overruled their officers and threw out the planning application on the grounds that the local roads were too small to take the extra traffic the hotel would generate. This time, the potential in terms of tourism generated and jobs created was never raised. Restaurants feel quite strongly that the planners are against them.

Instead Mr Ladenis is now looking at a former bank in NW 1 in which to expand and take on a new challenge. His present premises in Battersea, a perfect small restaurant, preclude him from picking up a third Michelin star — nothing to do with his

cooking which is certainly three star already. He needs more space around his tables, more luxury. It could cost in the region of £2m, perhaps more, to achieve that. There is apparently no shortage of people prepared to put up the half-million, but whether Mr Ladenis will end up with any more in his own bank account for his trouble is another question.

Another way through would be to expand an existing restaurant. Pierre Koffmann at Tante Claire is another brilliant chef who has an eye on his third star and its assumed benefits. Rejecting the idea of paying a huge premium on a short-term restaurant lease, he has bought into the house next door and will close at Easter. Knocking the two into one will give him extra space and a few more tables — up from 32 seats to 50.

The difference in capacity is crucial. Few people in this country are prepared to pay more than £40 a head for food, however good. The magic break-even point hovers around 30 diners in an evening: just one table of no-shows means no profit. Lunch can be a help by paying the overheads. The wheels turning which is why in the best restaurants it is usually offered much more cheaply.

The golden triangle for restaurants is between London, Oxford and Newbury on the M4, rich, affluent, accessible to London, international.

Add to this a few major tourist areas such as the Lakes where the season is short but the overheads in staff costs and rents are lower. At Sharrow Bay Hotel in Ullswater last year 60 per cent of bookings were from America. This year with the plunging pound it could be higher. Scotland has built a country house industry on this equation alone.

Kent is said to be the chef's graveyard. Men of Kent, when they go out, all want to eat prawn cocktail and steak at £30 on Saturday night. Ian and Jane McAndrew sold their house for a £20,000 profit, borrowed another £20,000 from the bank, bought a 25-year lease on a furniture showroom outside of the centre of Canterbury, and opened Restaurant 74. They live above it. So do their staff. They need to do 150 meals a week to break even. Most nights will spend between £15 and £20 a head and would be unlikely to spend more.

There are three conventional ways to raise the money to open a good restaurant:

First, you can find a patron who adopts the place. In France the champagne vineyards have nurtured high-class restaurants. Roll on the day that Guinness or Charrington's do the same here. (and before their press officers tell me about the room above the bar perhaps they would be good enough to try one of the restaurants in this column first and realise that we are not talking about quite the same thing.)

Secondly, you can go to a merchant bank and hand over control to the accountants.

Or you take 51 per cent of a company you form, borrowing your share from the bank and selling the other 49 per cent to investors — usually your customers. But to get involved in this kind of deal a chef needs a reputation that someone will stake hard cash against.

As far as Britain is concerned this is quite a novel proposition. And until someone discovers a way of financing restaurants that does not just subsidise the property business, the customer is going to pay a price for good food that embarrasses the craftsman who cooks it.

DETAILS

Le Gavroche, 43 Upper Brook Street, London W1. Tel: 01-499 1828.

Waterside Inn, Ferry Road, Bray, Berks. Tel: Maidenhead (0628) 2069.

Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, Church Road, Great Milton, Oxon. Tel: Great Milton (08448) 8881.

Chez Nico, 129 Queenstown Road, London SW8. Tel: 01-720 0660.

Tante Claire, 68 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3. Tel: 01-332 0645.

Restaurant 74, 74 Winchester, Canterbury, Kent. Tel: Canterbury (0227) 67411.

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OFFCUTS

Unseasonal but uninhibited

BEFORE quitting our series of extracts from Hannah Wright's *Sober* (Robert Hale via J.M. Norton, £5.95), it is worth

stressing the care and precision with which the author has written this text. You, any cook's study, find you, any well-to-do preference for bottles of wine from market, specialist poultry shops, needs to be read against Colin Spencer's piece.

Peach and blackberry soup is a happier thought unseasonal (unless these are the kind of items that lurk at the back of your freezer), but unexpected and uninhibited: imagine the effect as a hot pudding to close a cold buffet.

● Peach and blackberry soup MY husband, who has become an extremely discerning, not to say hypercritical, soup eater in the last two years, slurped this down at high speed, saying very nice through the peach slices. Later, he remarked that the British would never eat a hot fruit soup! This soup is perfectly pleasant when chilled, but hot it has real oomph.

3 large ripe peaches (4½ lbs 350g before peeling).

4oz (110 g) blackberries.

1 flat tablespoon arrowroot (cornflour will do, but gives an opaque finish to the soup).

½oz (15 g) sugar.

2 good pinches salt.

Juice of 1 large lemon and 1 orange.

½ pint (450 ml) water.

½ capful of good brandy.

Four boiling water over the peaches. Leave them for a minute, then drain off the water and peel the peaches under the cold tap with a little knife. Slice them thinly. Put all the other ingredients in the blender (except the brandy) and blend to a smooth cream. If your guests have false teeth (or you do) it may be kind to sieve the mixture at this point. Pour it into an enamelled or stainless pan and bring to the boil stirring all the time. As soon as it boils and thickens, taste and adjust the seasoning. Stir in the peach slices and the brandy and serve.

Variations

1. Red currants, black currants, damsons, blueberries or any other well-flavoured dark red fruit could be used instead of the blackberries.

2. A fruit eau de vie, such as framboise or black currant, would be used instead of brandy, or a glass of fruit white wine be substituted for the brandy and ½ pint (150 ml) of the water.

Honest bottle

TANNER'S Chardonnay is a French white wine from a negociant in Meur-sault which clearly consists of declassified

wine of that commune. That means simply that there was over-production, some perfectly good wine missed that appellation and could legally only be called Bourgogne — which is good enough label for many a fine bottle. This one is something of a throwaway of a white, big, full and, in the classic manner of the fine Burgundy whites, rich without a hint of sweetness. Big enough to dwarf the punier white wine dishes, it goes splendidly with tasteful sauces, fish or a well-flavoured chicken. A cheap luxury at £4.66 the 75cl bottle from Tanners of Shrewsbury's branches throughout the Marches.

John Ariotti

Christopher Driver Food and wine editor



Battery hens photographed from under the cages

Why many battery hens never make the stock cube

EASTERS may seem the best time to look at the egg. But I don't mean the chocolate one. That innocent looking breakfast egg, if it is not free range, hides a tumult of unpleasant suffering for the hen that laid it. If it needs a day in the calendar, Passion Sunday might suit.

Do we mind that the hen's claws are two inches longer than normal? Do we mind that the hens are often de-beaked? Do we care whether they lose feathers, die of diseases, peck each other to death and then eat the corpses? Do we care that one hen for its lifetime lives in a space one sixth of this page you are now reading?

Photographic evidence exists in abundance of the battery hen's deformities, terror and pitiful state. We are still largely unmoved, still buy the eggs. Yet if it was a litter of puppies or kittens, our tears would flow and the media would saw at the violin strings.

If we do not make an issue of this, it may be because the facts tend to be glossed over or suppressed. Here are some which may clarify the picture.

All but 4 per cent of our eggs come from battery hens. A hen shares a cage with three or five others which measures 18 inches by 20. The cage is metal with a sloping wire floor with a gradient of one in five, allowing the eggs to roll out into a collecting trough. The cages are stacked in four tiers, sometimes more, with narrow passageways between. The lower tiers are often in darkness. There is automatic feeding and watering. There could be as many as 30,000 hens in one windowless building. Bright light for 17 hours out of 24 promotes high laying.

The hens lay for about 70 weeks and will produce around 280 eggs over a 52-

week period. Forced molting, where food and water is kept from them for a period of time, can produce another span of laying, with larger eggs. These always sell well to the housewife. The hens are given antibiotics to counteract disease and various additives in their feed to encourage greater production. There are about 50 million battery hens in Britain. After the second year of laying they are slaughtered and used in soups, stock cubes, pies, pastes and baby foods.

However, due to disease, many battery hens never make the stock cube. They die a revolting death long before, and because the hens are left untreated for lengths of time and because many of the cages are obscured by others, a chicken carcass may not be discovered for days or weeks. There are no figures for chicken mortality in battery units, but the Ministry of Agriculture thinks 6 per cent is a reasonable estimate, which means that approximately 2.4 million hens die annually in their cages.

Debeaking or beak trimming is often thought necessary. It is done when the chicks are eight weeks old. Care is needed not to damage the chick's tongue or nostrils. The sharp end of the beak is sliced off. Often a hen cannot then close its beak, but the beak is made blunt and is therefore not a murderous instrument. We know that violence and murder are more likely to occur in slum living conditions, but battery hens live in such vile squalor that the imagination has difficulty in grasping it.

Perhaps the most graphic example is one of the diseases they suffer from. Impaction of the oviduct, commonly known as egg-bound, has a birth rate to it which you realise exactly what it is. The oviduct becomes choked

with formed and half formed eggs. It is almost as if the hen has been forced to produce so much that the egg material swells and congests in ovaries and ducts then becomes infected. The hen will die of peritonitis, the stomach wall ruptured by its own abnormal acidity.

One factor which causes this condition is that hens need secretion to lay. Kourou Lorenz believes this is the worst torture of all for the battery hen, that the reluctance to lay in public causes internal egg-laying, leading to death. Hens will also die of a haemorrhage from ruptured livers, which become fatty and enlarged from too rich a diet and no exercise.

Many of the diseases are fatal because the stockman cannot see the hen. Sometimes only the head, neck and feet are visible, and the stockman will fail to notice a distended abdomen, broken wings, wounds or grave loss of feathers. The law states that the stockman has to check the hens once a day to ensure their state of well-being. It is impossible to do so efficiently because of the crowded tiers and often it is done in a most cursory way because of the overpowering stench. Gas masks have been noted hanging on the outside walls of chicken sheds.

Cannibalism is not unknown in birds where the beak has not been operated on. It is understandable that in these concentration camp conditions the murder and consumption of a neighbour would at least alleviate the bleak and terrifying tedium. Another danger is vent-pecking, for when the hens are in their laying period the vents become distended, red and raw, an invitation for the neighbours to crash against to peck at them.

The mortality rate of the birds rises in hot weather.

Hens cool themselves by raising their wings and fanning their bodies. But they cannot raise their wings when crushed against each other. Wild squawking ventilation and high humidity, the hens die of heat stress. Another minor problem is that the hens' claws grow long as they are not wearing them down running around on earth.

Some of the research at Uppsala University have experimented by using abrasive tape on the floors of the cages.

Eggs produced from these conditions are sold as "farm fresh" or "free range" or even "fresh eggs." Advertising photographs then in clean nests of straw and they are sold from cosy market stalls and corner shops as well as the large supermarkets.

If domestic animals were kept in anything approaching these conditions their owners would be prosecuted for cruelty. Yet the Ministry of Agriculture insists on defending the use of battery cages, as does EEC policy. However, in 1979 the UK ratified a Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes, which states that the animal shall have freedom of movement for its physiological and ethological needs. This Convention accepted a detailed paper from the Society of Veterinary Ethology which included an avalanche of fact proving what a damaging environment the cage was to the egg-laying hen.

Humane alternatives do exist. More and more supermarkets are now selling free range eggs. The battery cage could be banned if we, the public, demand it and stop buying its eggs. No society which dares to call itself civilised should allow a harmless creature which from ancient times has fed and occupied mankind to exist in such living horror.

For more ammunition in the fight against battery cages send a stamped addressed envelope to Chickens, PO Box 2, Holmfirth, Huddersfield HD7 1QT.

Colin Spencer

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Do the pre budget smoketrails really lead back to Nigel?



Ian Aitken

PERHAPS the best off-the-cuff comment on Mr Nigel Lawson's second budget came from a very grand Tory grandee on Tuesday evening, as he wearily climbed the stairs from the Commons chamber to the committee room in which the Chancellor was due to face the Conservative backbench finance committee.

Well, that's it," he puffed. "Bloody Arthur Beggall's bloody well won."

It was a simplification, of course, as almost all instant budget judgements tend to

be. But it was no more than a dramatised version of Mr Lawson's own explanation for his failure to live up to backbench expectations. The difference, however, is that Mr Lawson evidently saw the miners' role as a valid excuse. My Tory grandee saw it as a condemnation.

There were, needless to say, numerous other factors involved in the Chancellor's inability to deliver the scale of tax cuts anticipated by the following. At least as important was the collapse of the pound against the dollar, and the consequent rise in interest rates. So one might conclude that it was an unlikely alliance of the president of the National Union of Mineworkers and the President of the United States of America which brought about Mr Lawson's humiliation.

For a humiliation it was what Mr Lawson had been bandying his promises of tax cuts around for virtually the entire year since his budget. The forecasts had become specific before the end of the calendar year, and even his subsequent efforts to cool the fever of expecta-

tion over the past few months had been half-hearted and therefore ineffective.

Little wonder, then, that the new leader of the Tory seat, Mr Francis Pym, was able to describe Mr Lawson as a man tied into a strait-jacket of his own choosing. If Messrs Scargill and Beggall tied the Chancellor, the Chancellor who tried the garment on for size.

And yet, in spite of it all, Mr Lawson did manage to get at least half a cheer from his own backbenchers when he sat down. To be sure, Tory MPs could not find the energy to stand up, as they had done last year. But they did give their order papers in the privacy way that passes for an ovation in the Commons.

The explanation, of course, was not so much that the backbenchers were pleased with what they had just heard. It was rather that they were relieved about what they had not heard.

And therein lies the extraordinary feature of Mr Lawson's Mark Two budget. For the fact is that it is possible to come to two diametrically opposed conclu-

sions about his Chancellorship on the basis of alternative interpretations of the agreed facts.

On the first interpretation Mr Lawson emerges as a diabolically clever political tactician with an almost unrivalled capacity for foresight. On the second, he looks very like a prize booby who has not only made a fool of himself but has also made a fool of the Prime Minister and her government.

Let us take the second scenario first. In his eagerness to maintain his reputation as a Chancellor who delivers the goods, he began spreading the word of approaching tax cuts a full year ago. By last November, he was putting a figure on his proposed giveaway — some £1500 million, he told the Commons.

By the early weeks of this year, there were private speculations that the figure might after all turn out to be even higher. Some like £2000 million or even £3000 million were being bandied about in the public prints, with very little public or private discouragement from Treasury sources.

Yet throughout this period Mr Lawson was in the forefront of the group of hard line ministers who not only minimised (one might almost say lied about) the cost of the pit strike: they also encouraged the view that the Government was happy to see it go on for ever. It was Mr Lawson himself who, with almost blinding honesty, described it as a good investment for Britain.

To be sure, the Chancellor had begun to see the red light early this year, especially when the remorseless ascent of the dollar against the pound eventually forced a rise in UK interest rates. He immediately threw the Treasury public relations machine into reverse, trying desperately to reverse expectations which he himself had raised.

But it was too late, and when he stood up in the Commons on Tuesday to announce that his income tax cuts would amount to barely half the £1500 million he himself had advertised, the disappointment on the Tory benches came close to a sense of betrayal.

That is the unfavourable interpretation of the agreed facts, and it certainly leaves Mr Lawson looking pretty stupid for a fellow of Nuffield College. The alternative interpretation, however, produces a rather different conclusion in which Mr Lawson may not emerge smelling of roses, but at least he retains his reputation for cleverness.

Consider the other facts in the equation. As it became clear towards the end of last year that it might not be possible to sustain his optimistic forecasts for tax cuts, a new set of rumours began to surface at Westminster and in the City. It was that the Chancellor was secretly planning to finance his income tax cuts by attacking pension funds and (worse still) the beloved lump sum pension payments of retiring servicemen and women.

It was simultaneously suggested that he might be about to impose VAT on a whole range of items like books, newspapers, children's shoes, and so forth. Almost at once, a vast multitude of amateur and professional lobbyists moved into action to block so monstrous an idea.

Tory MPs were inundated with letters, telephone calls and invitations to personal briefings (often over lunch) from those who had a vested interest in one or other of these causes. Above all, the pensions lobby swamped them with propaganda, much of it fully justified but some of it highly dishonest.

By the beginning of this month, as budget day approached, the hysteria was almost palpable at Westminster. One junior minister who had been particularly beset, told me that he was still getting mail on Tuesday morning, only hours before the Chancellor stood up.

In the event, Mr Lawson did none of the things he was accused of preparing. On the contrary, he played a well planned and well executed joke on the House when he exposed the extent to which they had been misled. And behind the waving of Tory order papers could be identified a sense of relief. Mayday wasn't a good budget, but it could have been worse.

But where did those

rumours come from? And why did Mr Lawson sternly refuse even to hint at their falsity? He told the Commons that he had been unable to deny one set of rumours — that the move led the speculation to move onto more justified ground.

But it is not possible that Mr Lawson — a betting man, well versed in the tactics of laying off ill-founded wagers — deliberately encouraged the false speculation in order to buy off the critics of his fraudulent promises of tax cuts? I do him the credit of thinking that he is quite clever enough and certainly quite unscrupulous enough, to have chosen that tactic.

But it is a tactic which, if it won him a short-term, half-hearted cheer this week, is unlikely to win him many long term admirers. To maintain the betting metaphor, Tory MPs will have to be uniquely clever if they are to overlook a Treasury bookmaker who waltzes twice in succession. And that, short of a miracle in the employment market, is what seems likely to be the outcome of Lawson Mark Two.

In-House briefing

THE WRITER and Member of the European Parliament, the Conservative peer Lord Bethell, is seeking to change the constitution of the House of Commons. The Bill next Thursday in the Lords to allow peers to vote in elections for the House of Commons.

At the moment, peers are disqualified from standing in elections, along with prisoners, drunkards, idiots and lunatics. The Government believes it should stay that way and his fight for peers' suffrage is likely to be defeated.

THE LORDS will be hoping that lightning doesn't strike the Victoria Tower when the Bishop of Durham makes his maiden speech on Monday night. He has taken the precaution of a debate on the non-provocative subject of training for new technology.

ON Tuesday, Lord Boyd Carpenter and Lord Charteris, a permanent Lord in waiting, will be opposing the Water (Fluoridation) Bill.

THE former prime minister, Mr Edward Heath intends to complete a stream of visits against the Chancellor in the final day's debate in the Commons on the budget next Monday. He will be demanding a £5 billion package to create jobs, the same amount as Labour's Shadow Industry Secretary, Mr John Smith.

Mr Roy Jenkins will be putting a more modest SDP/Liberal Alliance package. But Mr Norman Tebbit, the Industry Secretary, will not pull any punches.

Mr Jenkins was yesterday balloting for the dubious privilege of speaking throughout the night next Tuesday on a series of debates on the Consolidated Fund Bill. They also face late night business on Monday on the £2 prescription charge, which will be opposed; on Wednesday, with a Scottish rate support grant order; and on Thursday with an Order on mine workers' pensions.

LADY Warnock, who chaired the committee report on human fertilisation, will be introduced in the Lords on Wednesday. The Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, will be sponsored by Conservative Baroness Platt of Rillington.

Equal Opportunities Commission and Labour peer, Lord Longford, will sit on the cross benches.

LORD Kadoorie is travelling from Hong Kong to take part in the third reading debate on the Hong Kong Bill on Thursday. Last time he did this, he was criticised for having forgotten to take the oath.

Colin Brown

PONTING, GCHQ, abolition of the GLC and the Metropolitan Counties, telephone tapping... The catalogue of recent government abuses of power seems endless. These are not isolated and unfortunate blunders. On the contrary, they are evidence of fundamental and serious flaws in our constitution. The constitution is quite simply outdated, a relic of the nineteenth century, unsuited to our modern society and unable to provide real safeguards against a highly centralised, secretive and authoritarian government.

The new Conservatives have proved to be zealous custodians of the Secret State.

The principle of parliamentary sovereignty is today little more than a fiction. The electoral system has made Parliament less and less representative. The Cabinet and particularly the Prime Minister have acquired more and more power. They originate almost all legislation, and with a whipped majority can carry through almost any policy. Neither Parliament as a whole nor the public at large can intervene or force accountability.

The results can be disastrous. For instance Britain cannot afford to spend £800 million a year paying for Fortress Falklands, over £10 billion on Trident, and maintain properly equipped and trained conventional forces.

A Gallup opinion poll conducted in May 1984 found that 63 per cent of people in the UK disapproved of the proposed extension of Trident. Yet there has never been a real opportunity to question this policy in Parliament or the evidence upon which such a preposterous strategy is based.

Secretive government suits ideologists in a hurry very well. Despite their outrage now, would a left-wing Labour Party actually move to cut back the abuse of power? I have no doubts.

The constitution is dependent upon unwritten rules and conventions. Whilst these were once carefully respected, they are now manipulated or avoided altogether. Parliamentary sovereignty no longer guarantees accountability to Parliament, but is used instead of justify each and every action by the government of the day.

The trial of Oliver Ponting revealed just how frail and uncertain unwritten constitutional safeguards can be. The defence had to produce witness after witness to prove that what should have been self-evident, that the government of the day and the State are not, and should not be, synonymous.

Then our liberty seems to depend on the discretion of ministers. The sole judge of matters of national security is the minister in charge. Parliamentary sovereignty may require evidence in support of an assertion of national security. But since it is difficult for them to look behind the government's claims, the requirement is easily satisfied. This was well illustrated by the Guardian's ill-fated appeal to the House of Lords after the Pollard affair.

The onus on ministers to



You can take a GLC petition to Parliament but...

How to restore real power to the people

DAVID STEEL

believe properly and accountably is considerable for there are no safeguards against national security being employed for narrow political purposes, to avoid political embarrassment, rather than safeguarding the interests of the country as a whole. The Ponting trial was evidence that the government is willing to manipulate the rules to suit its own purposes.

The GCHQ issue is equally revealing. The Government's objective of tighter security could no doubt have been achieved through negotiations with the unions over a no-strike, no-disruption agreement. But Mrs Thatcher avoided such possibly awkward and lengthy negotiations. The workforce was not even consulted. It seems that the Prime Minister did not even consult the Cabinet. She simply intoned the magic phrase in the inter-est of national security and imposed a total ban on all trade unions, with incal-

culable damage to morale and performance.

Greater public participation and accessibility to government is needed at both the national and the local level. The closer government is to the people the more effective it is. However, the Conservative government, rather than promoting decentralisation, has introduced a greater centralisation. It seems, for Tory ministers, that the "Man in Whitehall" really does know best.

Increased by militant Labour-controlled authorities which it sets as political rivals, and set on implementation of its ministerial dogma, the Government has progressively diminished the freedom of local authorities to determine their own levels of expenditure best suited to the particular community.

The Government has used a fiscal solution in the form of its control of the exche-

quer grant and more recently, rate-capping to achieve greater central control for its own ends, and in extreme has been prepared to use its illicit parliamentary majority to abolish democratically elected local authorities, against the will of local people.

The present structure of government allows mistakes to be covered up, prevents proper accountability, and actually promotes inefficiency.

It took the painstaking research of the 20-20 Vision team to reveal the extent to which telephone tapping is used. This has become the only way central government is made accountable, by a rare resignation or an occasional leak. If the allegations were true, a great deal of public money has been wasted, important rights to privacy needlessly violated, and the intelligence services improperly used to spy on political opponents.

David Steel is leader of the Liberal Party.

rather than enemies of the State.

The Interception of Communications Bill is a good example of the type of limited ad hoc reforms used to paper over the deep cracks in our constitution. What safeguards there are are simply procedural. A new tribunal will be created but it can only check that a warrant authorising an interception was issued. It cannot question the interpretation of the grounds upon which warrants are issued.

Superficial tinkering with the constitution will no longer do. A coherent and comprehensive approach is required, to ensure the gradual regeneration of our antiquated constitution and to build adequate safeguards for civil liberty.

First, Bill of Rights is required. The rights and freedoms of the European Convention on Human Rights should be incorporated into the laws of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Only by this method can a basic level of security and freedom for every individual regardless of race, creed or political persuasion be guaranteed.

Second, a series of reforms in local government, including proportional representation for local authorities (including Bas) should accompany the giving of power back to local councils.

Third, the repeal and rewording of the Official Secrets Act, and the introduction of freedom of information legislation, should be urgently undertaken. People should be given the right to know exactly what is happening and why, and the opportunity to demand accountability and security without endangering national security in the process, is now necessary.

Fourth, vital decisions concerning national security should not be left to ministers. They should be taken by a special committee of Privy Counsellors. A body which would be independent of the pressures of government and capable of rigorous investigation and scrutiny, without endangering national security in the process, is now necessary.

Fifth, the decline of Parliament must be halted. Electoral reform is needed to make Parliament genuinely representative of every section of the country. Procedural reforms are required to empower Parliament as a whole and to ensure that a wide range of public opinion is reflected in the House of Commons.

Increasing support for the Liberal Party, and the introduction of public concern with the lack of constitutional safeguards of civil liberties and increasing alienation from the limited and partisan approaches of the other two major parties. The constitution should not be for the rulers but for the ruled. But the present constitution suits only the government and the ruling class. It stands alone in proposing a real commitment to reforming the constitution so that it controls and checks the power of central government and so that it once more serves and protects all people.

David Steel is leader of the Liberal Party.

The lessons for Labour unity in the coal strike

The Labour Party's "soft left" grouping, the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, yesterday published a pamphlet looking back on the miners' strike and seeking lessons for Labour in the future. This is an edited extract from that paper:

The longest ever national strike in British history is now over. Tens of thousands of miners and their families demonstrated immense courage and determination. But the victory we wanted was not achieved.

Up to now the Labour movement has concentrated on practical help and spreading the miners' case. Now there is time for debate. How we debate the lessons and issues of the dispute is vital. It may be just as important as the strike itself.

Although recommitment appears almost inevitable, if we allow ourselves the luxury of a period of internal discussion and counter-accusation we will have learnt nothing. We will hand the Tories the next election on a plate.

Our debate must be honest, thorough and comradely. Above all, it should avoid the game of "hunt the scapegoat". Not primarily because it will damage us but because it demonstrates a fundamentally wrong political analysis. No matter what the leadership did correctly or incorrectly, they were not in themselves responsible for the way the strike was won or lost.

Those of the right and the ultra-left of the party have already wheeled out their blame Scargill/Kinnock positions. Our contribution is an attempt to look honestly at complex and contradictory issues, the relationship between leadership and response, gains and losses, and at the lessons for the future.

The fact that the strike was inevitable from day one of Thatcher's second term, and that the stakes being played for were so high, never seemed to be fully grasped by the Labour leadership. From the outset, they acted as if the strike was an embarrasment from "real politics" in Parliament and the electoral arena. They appeared to wait impatiently for the strike to end before "business as usual" could start again.

The leadership supported the miners' case, and Neil Kinnock made many — often unreported — speeches in their favour. But the Parliamentary leadership acted as if supporting the case could in some way be separated from the process of struggling and winning. We do not doubt Neil Kinnock's personal support for the miners' cause. Coming from his mining background it could hardly have been otherwise. Part of the problem may have been an over-compensation for this fact. Perhaps he did not trust his own emotional commitment.

The results of the leadership distancing itself from the daily work of the dispute, combined with errors by the NEC, allowed the Tories to set the agenda and put Labour on the defensive. From the very beginning it was clear that the strike would involve issues on the economy, law and order, democracy and social change. It was a political challenge that could not be confined to just the Plan for Coal.

The Tories won on these crucial ideological and political themes because Labour, time and again, ducked them. Labour spent more time stating what they did not support rather than positively setting an alternative agenda, particularly on questions of economic management and long term energy plans.

The NEC meanwhile excelled in their usual pastime of passing resolutions but the party managed to produce only one leader during the whole dispute. To a large extent this reflects the inability of the party machine

to switch to campaigning. Yet more could have been done to identify with, and coordinate support for, initiatives like the twinning of GLPs and pits.

Whether this higher and more effective prudence would have done Labour's electoral standing any good in the short term is a matter of conjecture. However, giving ground to the Tories in a vain hope of attracting the middle ground can only appear to the public as a lack of conviction. It is equivocation and crisis management which neither endorses our own supporters nor appeals to the middle of the road voter we need to win to form the next government.

The strike has been neither the day of glory nor the ringing affirmation of class politics that various pundits have claimed. Instead it indicates the possibilities which changes in class structure open up for Labour. It should give us renewed courage to resist and mobilise in the trade unions, in the communities, and in the wider movement.

No group is powerful enough on its own, no matter how much industrial muscle it has. Nor should it be. The view — based on a myth of what actually happened in 1974 — that industrial militancy can actually on and of its own change a government is to reduce extra-parliamentary struggle to one of power narrowly conceived. Extra-parliamentary activity will include strikes and demonstrations.

These experiences of conflict can give people confidence in their abilities to control their own lives. But extra-parliamentary activity is more than politics. It is a struggle of ideology; to seek by persuasion and involvement to challenge the legitimacy of Thatcher's vision.

Those on the right of the movement who argue that Labour can win only by establishing an appeal to the middle ground while the unions return to the path of moderation, are wrong. If the strike teaches anything, it is that centre politics and the new realism are not adequate weapons to take on Thatcherism.

For the Labour Party, the road to the next election is rocky. If we are to succeed we must hold on to the positive experiences of the strike rather than reflect on its misadventure. Campaigning practices and perspectives have to be kept alive and applied to the vital coming struggles over rate capping and social funds ballots. For the strike has inevitably tended to shut out campaigning on other issues.

The strike shows the foolishness — indeed the impossibility — of separating extra-parliamentary struggles from parliamentary activity. It is part of the strategy for socialist transformation. To effect change inside Parliament the labour movement must begin to think strategically, to anticipate and plan. The right kind of extra-parliamentary struggle is a crucial part of developing the confidence to defeat Thatcherism and give us a greater chance of winning the next election.

To extend the anti-Thatcherite ideological offensive we must now build upon and extend the links between various sections of the movement made during the course of the dispute. We have to sustain the often unprecedented level of branch activity.

If we succeed in learning these lessons, without plunging the movement into a state of recrimination, the sacrifices made by miners and their families will not have been in vain.

This is an extract from *After The Strike*, available from the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, 10, Poland Street, London W1V 3DQ, price 30p.

Here we come gathering nuts who may...

Michael Brown

NIGEL Lawson's budget has dominated proceedings in the House of Commons this week. During the rest of the year it is the senior personalities of the two front benches who hit the headlines. But what sort of impact do the other 300 backbenchers make?

As a rule they are regarded as hard animals who either sustain or oppose Government policies on the basis of hard instinct. The prospect of "high office" as a private secretary to a Parliamentary Private Secretary at the DHSS is enough to seduce and satisfy the ambition of the average MP into being supportive, submissive and safe. Not for

him irresponsibility or controversy.

And yet it seems to me that those with a reputation among their colleagues for being eccentric, persistent, and even a little ridiculed are those who most ably defend Parliamentary democracy.

The purpose of Parliament is to ratify the decisions of the executive and call ministers to account. Most MPs are so anxious to become part of the executive, as junior ministers that only a few are willing to account. The most effective callers to account are the mavericks, eccentrics, and total nut cases, who are fairly few in number.

Only a few weeks ago Tam Dalyell dominated the proceedings. The debate on the Belgians came about because of his persistent doggedness and sheer bloody-mindedness.

I have no brief for his point of view but by spending three years taking hundreds of questions I cannot deny his achievement in holding the Government to account in Parliament.

If his enemies say that it was Mr Pounting who helped him let us remember that if Mr Dalyell had not tabled his questions in the first place the Pounting affair would never have happened. It is no mean achievement for a backbencher to cause a Government to have to provide time for a full day's debate on an issue which causes initial embarrassment.

Those of us in the Conservative Party like myself who were irritated at his antics must not forget that it was the same eccentric and persistent Tam Dalyell who caused the attack in the Callaghan Government in 1978 during the devolution debates. His backbench role

helped to create the circumstances which ultimately retained Scotland as part of the United Kingdom.

Some of us who became Conservative MPs in 1978 would ever go so far as to say that the Labour Government fell as a result of Tam Dalyell and his colleagues during that debate and that we have cause to add his name to our list of names for thanksgiving letters.

One of my colleagues, Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, has spent his parliamentary career mastering procedure to the extent that even Speakers quiver if he should rise on a point of order.

His day came in 1976 during the passage of a Labour Government Bill to nationalise the shipbuilding and aircraft industries.

He used his knowledge of procedure to raise a point of order to obtain a ruling that the Bill was "hybrid." This

led to a debate which caused the Speaker to use his casting vote and created the famous Heslop "mace" throwing incident. Maxwell-Hyslop came near to bringing down a government single-handed.

Dalyell and Maxwell-Hyslop are not the stuff of which whips, under-secretaries and prime ministers are made. I doubt if they have ever had ministerial ambitions. The key to their success is that they are always in Parliament, always in the House of Commons library and always in the near-empty Chamber.

Their impact — and that of others — has resulted in their hi-jacking Parliament away from the Executive.

Once — maybe twice — do such chances come to whips, under-secretaries and prime ministers. But only such a member can spot the chance and become the

driver of the parliamentary process.

Two years into the present Parliament pundits and observers are predicting that the new junior ministers who will feature in the autumn Government reshuffle. Attention inevitably turns to the new members to see who is on the up. For me the ones to watch are the active new boys who do not become Parliamentary Private Secretaries or assistant whips and who remain outside the magic circle of promotion. From them will emerge the future Dalyells and Maxwell-Hyslops.

Parliament should not just be a training ground for 649 MPs to practise being prime minister by wasting years trying to get a change to stand at the dispatch box as a junior Minister.

Michael Brown is Conservative MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes.

If our crystal ball is right, there is little to stop the pound going to \$1.80



NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

SUDDENLY, that extraordinary day in which the dollar turned — Tuesday, February 26 — seems a long way away.

Those anonymous sages of the financial markets, "foreign exchange dealers," were

confidently telling journalists that the pound would go to parity against the dollar. Newspapers were running stories of how you could not even get parity for a dollar in a New York hotel — mind you anyone who changes money there has to be either very rich or very foolish. But the close of trading on the evening of Monday, February 25 — \$1.0560 in London, \$1.0550 in New York — seemed to justify the gloom.

The next day the pound initially fell to \$1.0370, but Mr Volcker said the dollar was too high, and though the pound closed down at \$1.0535 in London, in New York it was above \$1.06. We said here that you could not sensibly say that the dollar had indeed turned, but that it certainly felt like it. On the Wednesday the central banks sprang their ambush and drove the dollar sharply down that at one stage the pound went above \$1.10. The rest is history, albeit

rather recent history. No American can now assume that they will be able in the foreseeable future to buy a pound for \$1.05 again. That was the grand speculative blow-off that ended the dollar boom. The bubble is now burst.

It is in that context that the market reaction yesterday to the "dash" GDP estimate should be seen. The question that matters now is what profile is the collapse of the dollar likely to make. The sudden fall yesterday was not a rational reaction to unexpected economic data. These flash estimates are pretty inaccurate, hairy figures, being revised up and down by large margins. Thus the flash estimate for last quarter of last year was growth at 2.5 per cent annual rate. Now the actual figure is estimated to be 4.9 per cent.

No, the dollar did not fall yesterday because of the figure for US GDP. The dollar

fell because it was looking for an excuse to fall, and the GDP figure was a good enough excuse.

Looking ahead, let us try to make an educated guess as to what will happen to the dollar, choosing the dollar/sterling rate for convenience, even though in some ways a better rate would be the dollar/mark rate (that is because the new tough UK monetary stance will tend to push the pound up against all currencies).

At the moment, the fall has been a head of steam behind it, and the sheer pace of the fall will frighten some operators. This suggests that the dollar will fall well into the \$1.20 to \$1.30 range, maybe a bit beyond. It will not be a free fall, though, for there are still a number of investors who cannot quite believe that the mighty dollar will indeed collapse.

In any case there is one important factor which will buttress the dollar: a rise in

US interest rates, probably in a couple of months' time. There are increasing signs that US inflation is already pushing into the 6 per cent region and any decline of the dollar will tend to exaggerate this. Further, US money supply is running above target levels and it seems reasonable to expect the Fed, may be later rather than sooner, to act to bring this back in line.

So at some stage in the late spring there will be a solid recovery of the dollar, at least a plateau, maybe a run back to above today's level. That plateau could persist for some time, maybe into the autumn. Beyond that, it seems reasonable that there will be a further run, taking the dollar right back at least to its appropriate level on a purchasing power parity basis, maybe beyond. We are talking of a pound at \$1.80.

Our crystal ball at this stage clouds over. And to be

honest, though it has been working rather well for the last month or so, its currency performance in the previous two years was pretty dreadful. (In defence, its interest rate performance has been rather good.)

But it is worth offering the hostage to fortune for one reason. It is important for anyone interested in the currency markets to be aware that the collapse of the dollar could be just as dramatic as its climb. But do not expect the downward path to be smooth.

Serious danger

IF the previous profile of the dollar is right, there are very obvious stockmarket considerations. Take Jaguar, for instance, which produced pretty stunning figures yesterday, but whose shares have been weak in the last few days because it is

(rightly) perceived as overly dependent on the US market. The trouble is, it is easier to identify companies that will do badly out of a fall in the dollar than companies which will do well. From the point of view of British industry as a whole the problem is more likely to be the exchange rate against the German mark. Reaction to our new restrictive monetary policy was yesterday driving sterling up against the German mark as well, and though there are very good reasons to want the pound higher, against the dollar (unless, of course, there is little evidence that sterling is overvalued against the European currencies, with whom we do much more trade).

That's now a serious danger, and one which the authorities will have to get to grips if they do not want to see yet further tracks of industrial Britain laid waste.

Fair choice

FINALLY, a word about the RAF trainer order. There will be a great deal of gnashing of teeth at the Brazilian/Northern Ireland consortium's principal rival, British Aerospace. BAA would argue that this was a political decision, taken against the technical advice of the RAF and the appropriate mandarins.

Maybe. But it is worth making two modest points in defence of the decision. The first is that it is really a bit illogical to lend vast amounts of money to countries like Brazil and then not seek, where commercially sensible, to give those countries a fair wind when they produce a way of paying some of those debts back.

And the second is that with the public float of the other half of BAE now looming, at least the government is not artificially fattening its chosen calf for market.

Output up but demand will still exceed supply

Jaguar in fast lane with bumper profits

By Mary Brasier

Jaguar Cars, which was privatised by the Government last year, has increased profits by 83 per cent to £21.5 million after selling nearly 33,000 cars worldwide.

Jaguar has stepped up production at its Browns Lane assembly plant in Coventry to meet increased demand, particularly from the US, which took 35 per cent of the company's output last year.

The chairman, Mr John Egan, said the prospects for 1985 were also encouraging. "We expect the major luxury car markets to grow during the year and as in 1984 demand for Jaguar cars will continue to exceed supply."

The strength of the dollar has added extra fuel to Jaguar's success, although the company has mitigated some of the currency influences by selling forward a "substantial" proportion of its 1984 and 1985 dollar receipts. "We do not need a low exchange rate to make profits,"

Steady and reliable growth is preferable to wide profit fluctuations.

US sales have benefited from a shake-up of the dealer network as part of Jaguar's move to pinpoint its market among luxury car buyers. Shared dealerships with more mass market brands like Triumph and Rover are being renegotiated, and sales are now running at an average of 100 cars per dealer. "The US bought 1,228 cars last year and the Jaguar management is looking for at least another 10 per cent increase from the US and other big markets in 1985."

Growth in newer markets like Australia, Canada and West Germany where Jaguar is challenging BMW and Mercedes on home ground, ranged from 55 per cent to 87 per cent last year. In the UK, Jaguar outstripped all its rivals with a 7 per cent increase when the market as a whole shrank. The company's principal model, the Series III

Saloon, sold 26,730 and worldwide sales of the XJS sports version rose from 4,566 to 6,070.

Jaguar employees who were given £450 of shares at the time of the flotation, are about to receive a second allocation, taking the value of their holding to about £1,500 at yesterday's market price of 51p per share. All shareholders collect a 4.75p dividend.

The company took on 1,500 new employees last year to keep pace with the growth in sales and went over to partial double-shift working. The management said yesterday that morale was very high because the company was doing well.

Jaguar spent £38 million last year and is stepping capital expenditure up further over the next two years to £50 million in 1985 and between £50 million and £60 million in 1986. The money will go on replacing plant, introducing robotics, and flexible automation.

Farmers attack Jopling proposal

By Rosemary Collins

Agri-union representatives at NEXT week's meeting of EEC farm ministers may express uncertainty about this year's agricultural price levels and the various interested organisations have launched a last-minute attempt yesterday to influence the final decision.

The EEC Commission proposals, which would mean a 0.3 per cent fall in UK farm prices, are "totally inadequate," said Sir Richard Butler, President of the National Farmers' Union. But the more stringent cuts in prices proposed by Britain's Agriculture Minister, Mr Michael Jopling, would be "worse than inadequate," Sir Richard argued.

In 1984, as an industry, we were saved by good weather in the arable sector, and we estimate that £300 million of our increased income was due to the weather. Our estimates for 1985 are based on weather basis indicate that there will be a dramatic cut in farm incomes this year," the NFU president claimed.

The drastic cut would be due to increased interest and rates as well as to proposed price levels for cereals and milk. He believed that the cut in UK farm incomes might be as much as 0.5 per cent if the commission proposals were accepted by ministers.

The Food Manufacturers Federation, the other hard-spoken voice yesterday against the price proposals on the table because they are in the main far too generous to farmers. Instead of cutting cereal prices by 10 per cent, the commission wants the FAF favours the 5 per cent cut suggested by Mr Jopling.

The federation sees no justification for the 0.3 per cent increase proposed for skimmed milk powder, an increase which would cost the food industry as a whole between £45 and £5 million in a year. Skimmed milk powder is already in substantial surplus, and its price went up by 14.5 per cent in the last year.

The 0.3 per cent increase in sugar prices has also increased manufacturers' costs. The EEC already produces 13 million tonnes of sugar a year to meet a domestic consumption of only nine million tonnes, and imports African, Caribbean and Pacific sugar as well under long-standing international agreements. But a strong indication this week that a proposal to be generous to sugar processors, by maintaining the sugar storage levy reimbursement scheme, is a direct result of the recent rise in wheat fuel costs. Why should this sector of an industry be compensated when everyone else is being asked to be demanding?

Britoil outstrips forecasts

By John Hooper

Britoil, the North Sea's most active explorer, yesterday turned in better-than-expected results for last year. Pre-tax profits rose 17 per cent to £68.1 million.

Sir Philip Shelbourne, chairman, offered two reasons why Britoil's performance had outstripped predictions. One was that production had been about 7 per cent higher than forecast, mainly because the Britton field in which Britoil has a 30 per cent stake, had come on stream earlier than expected.

The other was that the fall of the pound against the dollar, which is not the unmitigated blessing to Britoil that it is to some other exploration and production firms, had not had as much impact as feared. One of Britoil's weaknesses up to now has been the

vulnerability of its accounts to a strengthening of the dollar against the pound. When it was floated off from BNOC in 1982, Britoil inherited some £350 million of debt, and whenever the pound weakened the sterling value of this debt increased.

Britoil executives calculate that if the dollar-sterling exchange rate had remained unchanged last year, the company's net profits of £168.4 million would have been about £40 million higher.

The company has now provided itself with a hedge in the form of extensive dollar-denominated assets and deposits, and the problem is unlikely to recur.

But the acquisition of US assets is, in any case part of Britoil's strategy of international diversification. Last year also saw its Marham field in Dubai brought on stream. The

company produced 61 million barrels of oil and 69 billion cubic feet of gas. Its turnover rose 24 per cent to £1,543.7 million.

But for all this, the closing price of Britoil's shares yesterday — 5p up at 22 1/2 — was no more than 6p above the level at which they were launched two-and-a-half years ago. Analysts reckon the company's market value is at a massive discount of from 50 to 65 per cent to its asset value.

But as Sir Philip acknowledged yesterday, the share price is unlikely to rise much further because potential investors are waiting for the Government to divest itself of its 49 per cent holding.

The Government — and Britoil's other shareholders — are reluctant to do so for a number of reasons. A statement added that "further discussions will take place in the near future."

BT expects to beat sell-off forecast

By Mary Brasier

British Telecom is well on the course to beat its forecast of £1.8 billion profits made when the company was sold off to the public last year.

Announcing nine-month profits of £1.07 billion yesterday and with only 10 days of the company's financial year still to run, BT said it was confident of achieving its target.

Despite a large dent in third-quarter profits from expenses which jumped nearly 10 per cent to £1.5 billion, partly reflecting the costs of organising the UK's largest company flotation, BT made £388 million in the three months to last December. That leaves only £280 million the company has to earn in the final quarter to meet its prospectus target.

"If that was all we made it

would be a disaster," said a BT spokesman yesterday. "But we will not produce a result that is out of line with the progress we have made in nine months."

A 2 per cent price rise in November and volume growth, particularly in telephone calls, which increased by 8.7 per cent, pushed total turnover up to £134 billion or £5.6 billion over nine months.

Inland and international calls have risen by 7.5 per cent and 11.6 per cent since last April, and BT says final quarter figures should show even higher rates of growth. Telco and rental sales are also up and BT is not yet feeling the pinch from the loss of its monopoly in answering to subscribers with their first telephone.



BT chairman Sir George Jefferson

Industry's budget response uninspiring

By our Economics Staff

Industry has failed to respond to last year's budget measures which encouraged businesses to bring forward their investment plans. Department of Trade and Industry figures showed yesterday.

The uninspiring performance of capital spending since the beginning of last year is in marked contrast to the expectations generated by the phasing out of tax allowances for investment, which provided an incentive to bring forward capital spending.

The official figures show that capital expenditure by industrial and commercial companies in the fourth quarter of last year was £4,381 million (in 1980 prices) compared

with £4,319 million in the third quarter and £4,205 million in the second.

Though capital expenditure in total increased by 12.5 per cent between 1983 and 1984, the largest part of the increase occurred between the third quarter of 1983 at £3,752 million and the first quarter of last year at £4,159 million — before the March budget.

The revised figures show total investment by industrial and commercial companies at a record level of £17,157 million in 1984, finally surpassing the last 1979 peak though manufacturing investment at £8,142 million remains well below the levels of 1979 and 1980.

Other revised figures from

the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday confirmed a substantial build-up of stocks by companies in the fourth quarter, which will have helped to buoy demand.

After three successive quarters in which stocks were run down so that companies met part of demand from the shelf rather than production, the build up in stocks is put at a total of £406 million in the fourth quarter (in 1980 prices).

The pattern of the build-up is unusual with retailing adding £397 million — perhaps reflecting the strength of high street spending in the fourth quarter — while manufacturers added £170 million to stocks of finished goods.

Liffe aims to treble up

By Peter Rodgers

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe), the newest of the City's major markets, hopes to double the number of contracts traded and treble the volume of business over the next two to three years. This is the ambition of Liffe's new chairman, Mr Brian Williamson, a managing director of Gerrard & National, who yesterday succeeded Liffe's founding chairman, Mr John Barkshire, of Mercantile House.

Mr Williamson is one of the group of five people, including Mr Barkshire, who developed the idea of a London financial futures exchange in the late 1970s, ready to open three years ago.

The market place, in the old Royal Exchange building by the Bank of England, is now in a new phase of expansion, with a drive into the newly fashionable options business which Mr Williamson said was "almost like creating a new



Chairman Brian Williamson

exchange." It will, however, fit into the old building. Permits to trade in options are being sold at £7,500 each, raising at least £750,000 to finance the expansion. After cutting costs by reorganising its clearing contract with the In-

ternational Commodities Clearing House, the Liffe market is now breaking even as an institution. The amount of business done on the floor doubled last year compared with the year before.

Mr Barkshire leaves his chairman's role in the week that Liffe reaches a total of five million contracts traded since it started. He is to continue as a director of Liffe while Mr David Burton, of S. G. Warburton, takes over from Mr Michael Mayo as deputy chairman.

In the financial future markets, dealers trade in contracts to supply foreign exchange currency deposits, government stocks and bills at fixed dates in the future. The contract values depend on the market's view of what is happening in the underlying financial instrument. Options operate on a similar principle and their key advantage is that potential losses are not opened.

Brook Oil had debts esti-

Companies owe JM 'more than £50m'

By a Special Correspondent

A liquidator has been appointed to salvage what he can from the wreck of the company, registered company, had debts of £504,888 and assets of £418,855.

Creditors of Transgulf have been told there are also contingent liabilities due to Johnson Matthey of £27.1 million and assets of £604,088.

The 16th company, Bulkfreight Incorporated, chartered cargo vessels. It was registered in Liberia and traded from Mr Siphra's London offices. Debts had been put at £2.1 million and assets at £604,088.

Creditors have also been told that each of the five companies has an additional contingent liability of £18.7 million to Johnson Matthey in respect of cross-guarantees signed for the group as a whole.

The liquidator appointed by the creditors is Mr Peter Copp, of the accountants, Stoy Hayward. He is also liquidator of an associated company, El Samed Maritime, whose directors met in London next

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister removed

MADAME Chen Muhua, the Chinese Trade Minister who hosted Lord Young's recent visit to China, was yesterday removed from her job and appointed president of the People's Bank of China. Foreign diplomats have been speculating for some time that Madame Chen, who is said to be lukewarm about China's economic reforms, might be shifted.

A former Vice-Premier, Madame Chen was responsible for introducing the policy of restricting couples to one child. Her removal could signal an increase in the pace of foreign trade.

MANSFIELD Brewery, which has pubs in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire, yesterday announced a £28 million investment programme which would create up to 300 jobs. Most of the investment will go into licensed premises. Over the next three years the brewery plan to build 12 new pubs and three leisure centres.

LORD CARR who was Home Secretary in the Heath Government, is stepping down as chairman of the Prudential. Lord Carr has been in the job five years and will resign after the AGM in May, although he will remain on the board. The Pru's new chairman is Lord Hunt, who is currently deputy chairman.

JOBS for part-time workers in shops and supermarkets rose last year and should continue to rise following the budget concessions on National Insurance charges for the lower paid. The Confederation of British Industry's Distributive Trades survey predicted yesterday.

YEAR END PROFITS UP 21%

Year Ended	December 1984	December 1983	Increase %
Turnover	\$'000	\$'000	
Profit before tax	3,496	2,669	+31%
Earnings per share	1,428	1,184	+21%
Dividend (net)	29.32p	24.92p	+18%
	7.35p	6.00p	+23%

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Military ghosts that haunt Brazil budget

Bernardo Kucinski on the new austerity

THE FIRST economic measures of Brazil's new civilian Government are no different from so many other austerity packages previously imposed by the military regime with the same elusive purpose of slashing inflation.

Mr Francisco Dornelles, the new Finance Minister, this week ordered a 10 per cent across-the-board cut in government spending, the suspension of all state bank lending for two months, and a one-year halt in recruiting public servants. In a parallel move the central bank ordered the liquidation of another troubled bank, the Brasilinvest investment bank, with about \$6 million assets, a year left by last month's run on banks.

Mr Dornelles also recommended that the state prosecutor should consider arresting the Brasiliinvest chief, Mr Mario Garnero.

Altogether it is a severe package, but also a rather dull one. All it does is say "no". Workers are still waiting for positive policies to control prices and create jobs, though the day after this week's budget the government list of controlled prices was extended. To appease the public, the government threatened strikes on many fronts, the new Labour Minister, Mr Almir Pazzianoto, a young former union lawyer, has decreed a political amnesty for 150 union leaders punished by the military regime in recent years.

Reaction to the budget package was mixed, but mostly sceptical. It has been overshadowed by the unexpected bad health of the new President, Tancredino Neves, who is reported by one newspaper to have cancer. He is about to undergo a third operation and there is a big question-mark over the future of Tancredino's policy. He proves unable to formally take up his new office.

The style of economic policy has certainly changed but at the moment the policies of the military regime look very much a continuation of the past. The military may have gone but the shadow remains of the man who ruled the country's economy for most of the last 21 years, Mr Antonio Delfim Netto.

The new Finance Minister, Mr Dornelles, worked for many years under Delfim's authority as head of the land Revenue. He is well known to the public as a bureaucrat who played tricks to increase taxation on wages. He is 50 years old and is President Tancredino's nephew.

Equally astonishing to public opinion was the nomination of a 39-year-old economist, Carlos Lemgruber, as central bank chairman. Lemgruber is perhaps the only Brazilian economist today who prides himself on being an "orthodox monetarist". He is a protégé of former Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen, who ruled the country's economy for that period of time when it was not ruled by Delfim.

The third man in the economic troika is 39-year-old Ivo Siqueira, an anti-monetarist who will head the Planning Ministry, now stripped

Working...but trapped in poverty

Tony Atkinson and Mervyn King on how Chancellor Lawson sees his role as tax reformer

Chancellor Lawson would like to go down in history as a tax reformer. He used the word "reform" no fewer than 16 times in five minutes of his budget speech. Tax reform is, however, more difficult than it looks. Improvements in one area may increase distortions (of work and savings decisions for example) in other areas about which the Chancellor often and rightly complains. There will be losers as well as winners and the consequences may not always be desired or intended.

These difficulties are well illustrated by the reforms announced in the budget, by the Green Paper on personal taxation promised for later in the year and the major changes in National Insurance contributions which will take effect in October. The N.I. changes, though much acclaimed, nevertheless raise serious problems of trapping the low paid in working poverty. On our calculations, 8 per cent of family heads will now face very high tax rates on extra earnings — nearly treble the number previously so affected.

But first the Green Paper. It will contain proposals for changes in the taxation of husbands and wives. We shall have to await the details, but the broad outline is clear. Mr Lawson proposes a radical change, with husbands and wives being taxed independently on both earnings and investment income. However, he has stopped short of full independence in that the personal allowances would be transferable so that the husband or wife with income below the tax allowances will be able to transfer the unused allowance to the spouse.

The stark simplicity of independent taxation is therefore not achieved in full, and the compromise carries with it other implications. At present a wife is not taxed on the first £2205 of her earnings (after April 6) and this earned income allowance provides an incentive for her to enter the labour force. With transferable allowances, this incentive will be lost for most wives. The wife will start paying income tax from the first pound earned. This runs quite counter to the Chancellor's desire to improve work incentives. Moreover, it is not clear that such a change would be the most effective way to reduce the poverty trap, in which households lose nearly all extra earnings in higher taxes and lost means-tested benefits. In effect, the revenue from abolishing the married man's tax allowance would be used to raise the single allowance, to which each person would be entitled, so that a married couple would get twice the single allowance. An increase in child benefit and reform of the housing market and benefits are more promising directions for reform.

Of more immediate concern is the impact of the budget measures announced on Tuesday. We have estimated the change in the tax take for a representative sample of working families in Britain, comparing the position last October with that predicted for October 1985. The budget has very little effect on the "tax take" for families at almost all levels of earnings, with a slight reduction only for lower paid workers. This does little to reverse the redistribution from poor to rich since 1979. The principal change announced by the Chancellor was the restructuring of

national insurance contributions (NICs) to give firms an incentive to hire more workers. Overall, the reduction in labour costs is modest, and the main effect is to give firms an incentive to replace higher paid employees with lower paid workers. This will take time (although in the long run the measure will help to reduce unemployment a little). The immediate, and bizarre, consequence is that the way in which the Chancellor has chosen to restructure NICs will worsen the poverty trap. At present, people earning less than £35.50 pay no NIC, nor do their employers. Above this level NIC is paid on all earnings. This creates the "NIC trap" of high effective marginal tax rates. To help lower paid workers above this point, Mr Lawson has introduced reduced rates of contribution, so that employer and employee will pay 5 per cent each where earnings are between £35.50 and £55 a week, compared with 9 per cent and 10.45 per cent at present. But this help is at the expense of introducing a new trap at £55 a week. If your earnings pass this point, then you become liable for contributions of 7 per cent on all your earnings, as does your employer. Moving past £55 a week will cost an extra £2.30 in NIC. The 7 per cent is itself a reduced rate, and there are further "traps" at £90 and £130 a week. Instead of one NIC trap we shall have four. The poverty trap for low paid workers will get worse.

The reform is designed to reduce the amount that the Government takes in tax and NICs from the creation of a new job, and so to give employees an incentive to seek work at wages that the employer can afford. The average tax take on a new job will in future be smaller for low paid jobs. But the change also raises the marginal tax take — that is, the share of extra earnings which goes to the Government — for some people considering whether to apply for a better job or work overtime. Thus it gives employees a disincentive to work harder at wages that employers can pay.

The Chancellor has spoken about the need to give young people a first chance in the labour market even in a badly paid job, so that once on the ladder they can climb up. But his attempt to help them onto the ladder has only made it harder to climb. For example, a firm considering upgrading a job and paying £90 a week rather than £80 will know that £5 a week (50 per cent of the rise) will go in extra NICs.

The most sensible concept for assessing what the Chancellor is up to is the "employment tax wedge." This is the difference between what the employer has to pay out for the employee and what the employee ultimately gets in the pay packet. The bigger the wedge, the less chance there will be for people to upgrade their jobs pay because of the expense involved to employers. And the bigger the wedge, the higher the gross pay that has to be paid to attract the employee to work extra hours.

The number for whom the loss of gross pay costs would exceed 70 per cent through higher tax, employers' and employees' NICs, and lost means-tested benefits will almost triple from 3 per cent to 8 per cent of family heads. For working wives, the number more than doubles. It is hard to believe that this was intended. It represents a significant deterioration in work incentives for the low paid.

The restructuring of NICs, far from promising an eventual integration of NICs and income tax, makes the overlap between the two taxes much worse. NICs are to be progressive at the top but not at the bottom. In addition, a serious complication caused by the different ways in which the two taxes are levied will get a lot worse. NIC payments are assessed on the earnings solely for the week concerned. By contrast, income tax is assessed on earnings for the whole year.

The change will add to the complexity of the administration and to the number of civil servants required. This year's Tolley's Guide to National Insurance Contributions contains 261 pages. How many pages will be needed next year? It is to be hoped that when the more far-reaching proposals of the Green Paper are published they will be accompanied by a detailed analysis of the consequences for distribution and incentives. It would not be a bad idea if the Green Paper contained a discrete to allow interested parties to analyse the proposals themselves on a micro-computer. At least this would demonstrate the Government's commitment to information technology.

The changes in National Insurance Contributions give rise to the concern that the Chancellor's objective is "Jobs at any price," an impression reinforced by other measures announced and by the reference to the abolition of Wages Councils. What Britain needs is a Policy for Good Jobs.

A. B. Atkinson, and M. A. King are both Professors of Economics at the London School of Economics.

Sweden eases bank rule

FOLLOWING sustained and obscure official hedging, Sweden is to open its doors to foreign banks. It is the last continental country to do so, and Iceland and New Zealand are the only market economies still holding out.

The Social Democratic government has authorised its lawyers to draft a bill that will permit multi-national banks to establish subsidiaries in Sweden from the start of 1986. Mr Kjell-Olof Feldt, the Finance Minister, justified the move by the need for more international contacts felt among Swedish firms and for reciprocal views of the number of Swedish banks already operating abroad.

Twenty-nine foreign banks, four of them British, have set up representative offices in Stockholm in the hope of acquiring higher status in the springboard to lucrative business. Many experts have predicted that a maximum of 10 subsidiaries would be allowed, but the government will not decide on actual numbers until it has considered applications.

Among Sweden's neighbours, Denmark has long housed foreign banks. Three have entered Finland since it dropped its ban in 1982. The first round of negotiations in Norway, just completed, will give seven foreign concerns access — with Swedish banks excluded because their Norwegian rivals have been among those barred from Sweden.

To widespread surprise, the Swedish Social Democrats appear to be more liberal than the other, less leftwing, Nordic governments. Mr Feldt is proposing that foreign banks should compete with Swedish ones "on similar conditions". They will be free to start up funding agencies and finance corporations, and to open branch offices. Each bank's equity will be limited to a maximum of Skr 25 million (£2.4 million) and the Skr 75 million (£7.2 million) upper limit suggested by a government committee has been abolished.

Already Chase Manhattan's Stockholm representatives have divulged their interest in purchasing an entire network of branches from a Swedish bank. They believe foreign banks will be active in restructuring regional banking. Four of Sweden's own commercial banks are designated "national", eight "regional", and three "special".

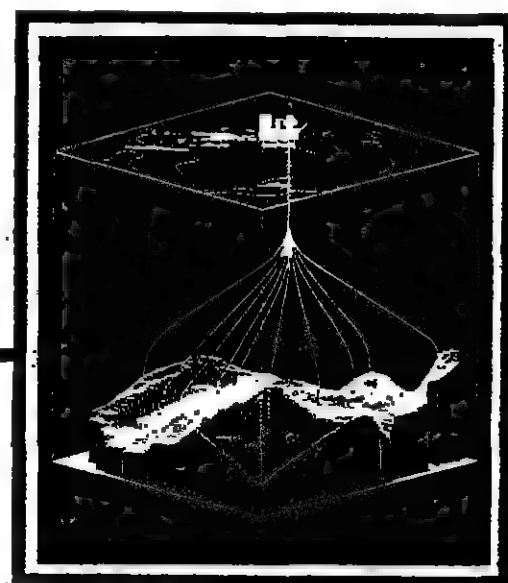
While the prospect of foreign banks playing a high street or full-service role is no more likely than elsewhere, the scope they will enjoy in Sweden goes beyond the functions pundits were expecting. These were related solely to the money market, foreign exchange, corporate finance, investment advice and cash management. The government sees their prime purpose as a link between Swedish firms and a facility for foreign companies based in Sweden, but says their activity "must not be restricted purely to this".

Among those eager to pounce is Citibank, which has been anticipating the relaxation of the banking law by cementing contacts with over 200 Swedish-owned subsidiaries in 45 countries.

On the legal position of foreign banks, the government is insisting that they be subsidiaries — not affiliates. As such, their boards would be chaired by a Swede permanently residing in his homeland.

Meanwhile, Nordic banks are continuing their expansion abroad with a vengeance and abandoning the consortium arrangements that were commonplace when they first invaded the market and felt obliged to pool resources. The trend is exemplified by this week's sale by Kansallis Bank of Helsinki to Det Norske Creditbank, of Oslo, of a 25 per cent holding in New York.

Donald Fields



Further growth in an uncertain year.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER	1984	1983
PRODUCTION		
Crude oil (million barrels)	61	56
Gas (billion cubic feet)	69	63
FINANCIAL		
Turnover	\$ 1,548.7	\$ 1,252.3
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	688.1	586.2
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	169.4	143.3
Earnings per share	33.82p	28.66p
Dividend per share	11.50p	10.00p
Funds generated from operations	1,112.8	941.7
Taxes paid	500.0	371.3
Capital expenditure	512.8	339.6

THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

- * Pre-tax profits reached a new high figure of £688.1 million, up 17% on the 1983 figure.
- * After-tax profits increased by 18% on 1983 figures to new high of £169.4 million.
- * Turnover (up 24% on 1983) significantly affected by oil price and sterling/dollar exchange rate movements; the average sterling price per barrel rose by some 12% during the year.
- * Production commenced from the Beatrice 'B' platform (May), Hutton field (August), Victor gas field and Deveron field (September).
- * Total oil production of 168,000 barrels per day exceeded the previous high of 154,300 (1983).
- * Development plans approved for Beatrice 'C' platform (now installed) and Scan North and South gas fields (Britoil interest 25%).
- * Major fabrication contracts for the Britoil operated Clyde field awarded early in 1984 and progressing on schedule for first oil in 1987. Construction on Balmoral, North Brae and Stanford 'C' projects also proceeded on schedule.
- * Britoil maintained its position as leading explorer on the UKCS involved in a total of 48 wells (operator for 14). Five oil/condensate discoveries and six gas discoveries are under active consideration for development.
- * Capital expenditure increased to £512.8 million, of which £353.5 million related to the UKCS. Within this total, exploration accounted for £178.7 million, the UKCS share being £150.6 million.
- * Margham field (Dulac) brought on stream two months ahead of schedule in October.
- * Further consolidation of international activities in the USA; agreement signed to acquire 50% of Amstar Petroleum's exploration and production assets.
- * Other international activities continued to expand — licences awarded in Indonesia (Merangin block), Norway (Haltank block) and Denmark (including one operated block). Applications made for concessions in the Netherlands (offshore) and Thailand (onshore) — confirmed successful in early 1985.

DIVIDEND

The final dividend of 8.20 pence per share brings to 11.50 pence the dividend for the year compared with 10.00 pence in 1983. The final dividend will be paid on 29 April to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 4 April 1985.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report will be despatched to shareholders at the beginning of April and will include the Notice of the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held at 2.30pm on Friday 26 April 1985 in the Douglas Suite, the Albany Hotel, Douglas Street, Glasgow.

For a copy of the report please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary Britoil plc, 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5LJ.

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Monthly Income Accounts
With effect from 20th March 1985, the interest decreases by 0.5% to 9.5% net per annum.
Interest for those customers who will continue to receive their interest gross decreases to 12.71% p.a.*

*Interest paid before 6th April 1985 will also be at the gross rate.

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هكذا من الاصل

David Lacey on a night of drama and sadness for British teams in Europe

Mersey shine as Real decline



IT IS 30 years since Real Madrid began setting standards of skill, entertainment and sheer grandeur in European football that left the rest of the game awestruck. So the sight of the present Real team clinging to the goalless draw with Tottenham in the Bernabeu Stadium on Wednesday that put them into the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup was a little sad.

They won their quarter-final mainly by sound organisation in their own half of the field. All credit to them for that but who, in the great days, would have foreseen a Real Madrid side edging through nervously to the last four by virtue of an own goal? Come to that, who would have envisaged the club having to win something as mundane as the UEFA Cup to guarantee their continued presence in Europe?

Some may be tempted to see in Real's decline a slump in European football as a whole. Public interest is not what it was although the crowd in the Bernabeu was as large — around 100,000 — and enthusiastic as the UEFA Cup to guarantee their continued presence in Europe.

While Liverpool's 4-1 victory over Austria Vienna was one of the most emphatic successes of Wednesday night, they will not be displeased to find themselves playing Panathinaikos in the semi-finals.

Rapid Vienna, of Celtic fame, achieved the most remarkable result by routing Dynamo Dresden 5-0 after losing the away leg 3-0 but a



THE GOAL THAT WASN'T: Hazard (left) celebrates. Falco (right) is floored — but Spurs effort was disallowed. Falco was adjudged to have fouled Real Madrid defender Salguero, also on the ground. Picture by Tommy Hindley

a handful for any opponent.

Not only does the Borussia Dortmund side contain strong European Championship team in Battiston, Giresse, Tigana and La-combe, but their attack also includes Chulana, the exceptionally quick Portuguese forward who nearly dashed French hopes in the Marseille semi-final last summer.

While Liverpool's 4-1 victory over Austria Vienna was one of the most emphatic successes of Wednesday night, they will not be displeased to find themselves playing Panathinaikos in the semi-finals.

Rapid Vienna, of Celtic fame, achieved the most remarkable result by routing Dynamo Dresden 5-0 after losing the away leg 3-0 but a

bigger threat to Everton's chances of reaching the Cup Winners' Cup final would surely come from Bayern Munich after their conquest of Roma.

Drenmler, Augenthaler, Matthaus, Hoerns and the Danish Lerby give Bayern a look of depth and quality which must make them favourites going into today's draw. Not that Everton, given their domestic programme in League and FA Cup, would wish a tie with Moscow Dynamo.

Tottenham and Manchester United, the English sides knocked out of the UEFA Cup to leave Inter-Milan favourites, still have pressing business at home to keep their seasons alive but both must be disappointed at the manner of their departures.

United to Videoton on penalties.

Spurs to that own goal by Perryman in the first leg at White Hart Lane.

Tottenham flew home from Madrid yesterday more convinced than ever that the header with which Falco beat Miguel Angel 15 minutes from the end should have counted.

Television replays from several angles supported the view that he had not fouled Salguero in going up for the ball.

The case for Perryman, sent off three minutes later for a professional foul on Valdano, was slightly weakened by the action replays which showed his tackle to be dangerously high. But Peter Shreeves, Spurs manager, felt that the Swiss referee had overreacted.

Tottenham's next three matches are all at home, cul-

minating in the visit of Everton who now lead them only on goal difference at the top of the First Division to White Hart Lane on April 3. The success of what remains of Spurs' season will be gauged — although not finalised by the results of these games.

In a recent article on football hooliganism reference was made to a letter from a Sunderland supporter who described unpleasant experiences this season at several away games, among them Everton. In fact he was referring to an earlier fixture between the clubs.

Sunderland have yet to visit Goodison this season — and described incidents away from the ground. No criticism of Everton or their present support was intended. DL

ON RUGBY

David Frost Burgess Report should be revived

THE JOHN PLAYER Cup, whose 1985 semi-finals take place tomorrow, has proved a stimulating and popular event, but is it really the kind of competition the game in England needs at this stage of its development?

The Knock-out Cup, as it was originally known, came about as a compromise when clubs were pressing for a league competition and the RFU were against the idea. In order to placate the clubs' desire for competition rugby, the RFU instigated the Knock-out Cup.

The trouble with the tournament is that, save for a few successful clubs, it does not provide any continuity of competition. It certainly arouses interest and has helped clubs like Orrell to find their rightful place in English rugby, but it has done little to improve standards of play, which ought to be the concern of those in charge of the game in England.

If the standard of English club rugby is to improve, the urgent need is for a league event with regular competition over an extended period, and not for a knock-out event which, by its very nature, involves few clubs in more than two or three matches.

The far-sighted document, the Burgess Report of 1981, understood all this and came down firmly in favour of a nationwide system of leagues. On the subject of the John Player Cup the Burgess Report said: "Although it is currently part of the rugby season, we believe it contributes less to the overall playing standards than our proposals. In view of this, and the congestion it causes in various parts of the season, we would prefer this competition to be discontinued at the appropriate time."

John Player made it clear from the beginning that they would not mind their sponsorship being transferred by the RFU to a different event. Perhaps their name could be attached to the inter-regional tournament which is to start next season. Such a move would be a welcome step towards the nationwide system of leagues which may well be set up before long.

At a pinch there might just be room in a season for a cup competition in addition to the league. Many people would see this as the ideal arrangement. In a season of only eight months, however, it would not be easy to accommodate both types of competition without considerably curtailing the number of Saturdays left free for clubs to arrange their traditional friendly games.

The more one re-reads the Burgess Report the more sensible it seems as a pointer to the way next season's game should be organised. One of its most important recommendations, the instigation of an inter-regional tournament, has now been agreed.

The great value of the tournament is that it will give the 60-odd leading players in the country three weeks of high-level competition as a preparation for the international Championship. The Burgess Report suggested there should be any number of local leagues feeding upwards into a top league in each of the four regions of the country. These four regional leagues would then feed upwards to three national leagues of 10 clubs each. There would be promotion and relegation through-out the regional, and national leagues, allowing every club in England the opportunity to find its rightful level.

Such a system would already be in operation today but for one sentence which caused the RFU committee to reject the findings of the Burgess Report. The stumbling-block was the sentence which excluded the 21-man first XV squads of the 20 clubs in the top two national leagues from taking part in the County Championship.

The aim of this exclusion was to lessen the work-load of the country's leading players, who could not have been expected to play in county rugby as well as in club leagues. Ironically, this is not far from what has been happening in the Midlands over the last few years.

Of course the exclusion of top players would have taken away the findings of the County Championship, but the Championship would still have continued to provide a channel through which less well-known players could find their way upwards into their regional sides for the inter-regional tournament.

David Frost in Paris

Board poised to OK world cup

The possible staging of the game's first World Cup, the expansion of their own constitution, the banning of players who receive money for writing books, and the alteration of the scrummaging laws, have been discussed by the International Board at their annual meeting in Paris this week. The outcome will be made public today.

Since last year representatives of New Zealand and Australia have been carrying out a feasibility study into the practicalities of holding a world cup, and have suggested staging it jointly in their two countries in 1987. Even if New Zealand and Australia do not get the three quarters majority needed from among the eight member countries of the IB, this experimental law has greatly reduced the incidence of collapsed scrums, and the IB may well incorporate it into the laws.

Other proposals, mainly from New Zealand, have sought to prohibit the deliberate wheeling of scrums, and prevent them moving more than a yard in any direction. These would fundamentally alter the character of the game, eliminating the time honoured advantage to be gained from strong scrummaging, that they are most unlikely to have been accepted.

On the other hand the proposal that a defending scrum-half should not be allowed to advance beyond the tunnel, may well gain acceptance. This proposal would allow the scrum-half in possession to get the ball away relatively unhindered.

The IB will have also discussed the schedule of tours up to the year 2002. The aim here has been to provide a more logical sequence of reciprocal tours between the major rugby countries.

John Rodda

Greeks cleared in new drugs tests



All but one of the Greek athletes named in a drugs "scandal" which overshadowed the European Indoor Games were cleared yesterday. The Greek Track and Field Association said only one of the 14 urine samples sent to a laboratory in Cologne, West Germany, was found to contain performance-enhancing drugs.

Informed sources said it was that of 100 of the hurdler Elizabeth Pandazi, who now faces a life ban.

While the competitors and the Greek Federation must be relieved by the second set of tests, there are questions to be answered in the meantime that the current drive to eradicate the abuse of drugs in sport carries the degree of integrity necessary for it to be successful.

While the Greek Federation followed the disclosure of the withdrawal of their six competitors from the championships with an announcement that there was only a suspicion of drug abuse, the department handling the tests at Athens university were in no doubt that one of the drugs on the banned list — probably anabolic steroids — was present.

SPORT IN BRIEF

SNOKER: England B made heavy weather of beating the Rest of the world 5-2 in the Guinness World Cup in Bournemouth yesterday, writes Clive Everton. They play England A, Davis, Knowles and Macleod tonight. At the Jimmy White beat Silvio Francesc 2-0 Willie Thorne could only draw with Jim Rempe, the American pool player, and Dene O'Kane took the first frame of John Spencer. Then Spencer redeemed himself with a crucial 52 to win his second frame and White took a scrappy final frame on the pink to beat Francesco again.

BASKETBALL: Leicester's 95-84 victory over Manchester Giants at Urstorn on Wednesday night earned them a Carlsberg National Championship semi-final with Kingston at Wembley on March 30, writes Peter Ball. The second semi-final is between Manchester United and Worthing on the same evening.

GOLF: Linda Bayman won the Asia Watches Women's Four-stroke on the Beshire Club to a record sixth title. She did so without hitting a ball yesterday. The final two rounds were abandoned because of snow, so Bayman and Maureen

TABLE TENNIS: Joanne Shaw, Britain's 17-year-old junior champion from Wakefield, who only just got a place in the Commonwealth Championships at Douglas, beat the seeded Canadian champion, Marianna Domonkos, 3-1 in the opening round of the women's singles yesterday.

RESULTS

Soccer	Cycling	Rowing	Table Tennis
WORLD CUP—Asia: Iran 2-1 (50,000).	THIRD STAGE (Andorra): 1. P. Anderson (Bel), 2. J. de Roy (Neth), 3. J. de Roy (Neth), 4. J. de Roy (Neth), 5. J. de Roy (Neth), 6. J. de Roy (Neth), 7. J. de Roy (Neth), 8. J. de Roy (Neth), 9. J. de Roy (Neth), 10. J. de Roy (Neth), 11. J. de Roy (Neth), 12. J. de Roy (Neth), 13. J. de Roy (Neth), 14. J. de Roy (Neth), 15. J. de Roy (Neth), 16. J. de Roy (Neth), 17. J. de Roy (Neth), 18. J. de Roy (Neth), 19. J. de Roy (Neth), 20. J. de Roy (Neth), 21. J. de Roy (Neth), 22. J. de Roy (Neth), 23. J. de Roy (Neth), 24. J. de Roy (Neth), 25. J. de Roy (Neth), 26. J. de Roy (Neth), 27. J. de Roy (Neth), 28. J. de Roy (Neth), 29. J. de Roy (Neth), 30. J. de Roy (Neth), 31. J. de Roy (Neth), 32. J. de Roy (Neth), 33. J. de Roy (Neth), 34. J. de Roy (Neth), 35. J. de Roy (Neth), 36. J. de Roy (Neth), 37. J. de Roy (Neth), 38. J. de Roy (Neth), 39. J. de Roy (Neth), 40. J. de Roy (Neth), 41. J. de Roy (Neth), 42. J. de Roy (Neth), 43. J. de Roy (Neth), 44. 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BBC-1

6.30 am Cee-fax AM. 6.50 Breakfast Time. 9.20 Pages from Cee-fax. 10.30 Play School. 10.50 Pages from Cee-fax. 12.30 pm News after Noon. 1.25 Regional News. 1.50 Pebble Mill at One. 1.45 Chock-a-Block. 2.0 International Snooker. 3.45 Regional News except London and Scotland. 3.50 Play School. 4.10 All New Popcorn Show. 4.20 Jackanory. Uninvited Ghosts by Penelope Lively. 4.35 Secrets Out! 5.0 The Secret Garden. Cee-fax sub-titles. 5.30 Friday People.

6.0 NEWS: weather.

6.35 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINE.

7.0 WOGAN. At last, an interesting guest — and one who can match her host at the laid-back wisecrack, as she proved at the BAFTA awards. Terry W. welcomes Princess Anne.

7.40 ODD ONE OUT. Paul Daniels introduces the evening's six eagle-eyed quiz contestants.

8.10 STARKY AND HUTCH. Huggy Bear and The Turkey. Glaser and Soul as the cops have to bail out chum Hugg when his private eye enterprise goes awry, in another recycled crime yarn.

9.0 NEWS: Weather News.

9.25 LATE STARTER. 2. Continuing Brian Clark's new drama series, with Peter Barkworth as the ageing academic feeling very exposed away from the sheltering groves, and plunging into the cold cruel world of job hunting. Rowena Cooper as the wife responsible for his predicament. Julia Foster joining the cast as his new friend, solicitor Liz.

10.20 THE RICHARD DIMBLEBY LECTURE. Teacher Teach Thyself. Educationist and philosopher Baroness Mary Warnock gives the 13th lecture in the annual series devoted to issues of national importance, which has never previously had a woman speaker. Her lecture at the top as it could be in its theme, and controversial in content, attacks the question of declining morale in our schools, alleges that many teachers have forgotten the real purpose of education, and calls for them to develop a new professionalism as a means of winning the respect which is their due.

11.10 WEEKEND OF SHADOWS. Small-town bigotry and xenophobia erupt in this 1978 Australian movie when a farmer's wife is found brutally murdered — and the Polish stranger among them finds himself at the mercy of a lynch mob. John Waters, Melissa Jaffer lead; director was Tom Jeffrey.

12.35 Weather: close.

Wales: 5.30 pm News. 5.35-6.0 Wales Today. 11.22 Film: Paraphrase on a Theme (1941) with Edmund Gwenn. Robert Preston. 12.35 am News: weather: close.

Northern Ireland: 5.30 pm News. 5.40-6.0 Inside Ulster. 5.55-6.0 News: weather: close.

Anglia

6.15 As London. 1.20 News. 1.30 Cee-fax. 1.40 News. 1.50 Return of the Saint. 2.30 Look Who's Talking. 3.0 As London. 3.10 About Anglia. 7.0 As London. 7.30 Cross Question. 10.30 Villa Rides. 1983. Action with Yui Brynner, Robert Mitchum, Charles Bronson. 1.25 Graham Kennedy Sings: close.

Central

6.15 As London. 1.20 News. 1.30 Cee-fax. 1.40 News. 1.50 Return of the Saint. 2.30 Look Who's Talking. 3.0 As London. 3.10 About Anglia. 7.0 As London. 7.30 Cross Question. 10.30 Villa Rides. 1983. Action with Yui Brynner, Robert Mitchum, Charles Bronson. 1.25 Graham Kennedy Sings: close.

BBC-2

6.30-7.25 am Open University. 9.0 Pages from Cee-fax. 9.30 Daytime on Two: Science Topics. 9.52 Look and Read. 10.15 Maths. 10.30 Look and Read. 11.00 Geography. 11.13-11.44 Going to Work. 12.30 Making the Most of the Micro. 12.30 Pages from Cee-fax. 1.30 Around Scotland. 2.0 Scene: 2.30 English File. 3.0 Pages from Cee-fax. 3.30 International Snooker.

5.25 NEWS with sub-titles; weather.

5.30 EUREKA. More inventive dramas.

6.0 THE INVADERS. The Enemy. Roy Thinnes leads the old SF serial.

6.50 PHIL SILVERS. As Sgt. Bilko, in another hair-raising old comedy classic.

7.15 ORS. St. Paul King is guest host this week with his own band King providing most of the music and leaving others to deal with the Loose Ends.

8.5 NATURE. Brian Leith challenges research scientists who work on live wild monkeys to justify the use of the creatures — some 4,000 a year — in experiments.

8.35 GARDENERS' WORLD. From Barnsdale, where Geoff Hamilton explains the difference between three kinds of potato crop, and shows how to germinate Alpine seeds.

9.0 JUST ANOTHER DAY. 5. Cross-Channel Ferry. At Dover, Europe's busiest passenger port, John Hume boards the Pride of Free Enterprise.

9.30 AROUND WITH ALISS. Peter A. enjoys a game and a gossip with two mystery female guests — coyly described as the charming wives behind two famous chatters.

10.0 HARTY GOES TO... TYNESIDE. Second of Russell's weekend trips takes him to Newcastle, where tonight he's seeing the sights and meeting the locals — including the temporary residents of the RSC, who give him a demo of Shakespearean George.

10.30 NEWSNIGHT. 11.15 Weatherview. 11.20 INTERNATIONAL SNOOKER. David Leck with the latest Guinness World Cup action.

12.5 LE JOUR SE LEVE. The Marcel Carrière season continues with his brooding, atmospheric study of love and jealousy, one of the great French classics, with Jean Gabin as the killer waiting for the police to dig him out of his attic refuge, and passing the night in recollections of the passionate affair that led him to murder his rival. 1.35 Close.

Wales: 10.30-10.55 am Outlook.

ITV London

6.15 am Good Morning Britain. 9.25 Headlines: Schools. 9.30 A Place to Live. 9.47 How We Used to Live: 10.9 Ways with Words. 10.25 The German Programme. 10.48 Insight. 11.5 My World. 11.22 Middle English. 11.30 Modern China. The Heart of the Dragon. 12.0 Emma and Grandpa. 12.10 pm Rainbow. Oracle subtitles. 12.30 Understanding the under 12s. 1.0 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Film: "Blind Spot". 1958 thriller with Robert MacKenzie. 2.0 Gema. 3.25 News Headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.0 Rainbow. Oracle subtitles. 4.28 Bafnik. 4.25 How Dare You! 4.50 FreeTime. 5.15 Blockbusters.

4.55 NEWS: weather.

6.0 THE 6 O'CLOCK SHOW with Michael Aspel & Co.

7.0 THE PRACTICE. More healing and dealing with the health centre Oracle subtitles.

7.30 FAMILY FORTUNES. Max Bygraves with the cash quiz.

8.0 DEMPSEY AND MAKEPEACE. Judgment. Michael Brandon, Glynis Barber as the police partners in the last episode of the unbelieveable series, as again personally affected by the crime that sparks their latest investigation. Oracle sub-titles.

9.0 THE GENTLE TOUCH. Pressures. Is Maggie's boss losing his bottle? Jill Gascoine as the soft arm of the law, worried about Russell (William Marlowe) in more repeated crime-fighting. Oracle sub-titles.

10.0 NEWS AT TEN: weather.

10.30 THE LONDON PROGRAMME. John Taylor presents a report, originally scheduled for last week, on the long-term problems facing the National Theatre — problems that go far deeper than the present cash crisis, and which could force it to leave its South Bank site.

11.0 SOUTH OF WATFORD. Ben Elton meets Bruce McLean, Glasgow-born artist whose early work pushed the conventional definition of art to its limits. How did this most avant-garde of artists come back to unfashionable paint, and, more, to win the most important prize in the most traditional of the fine arts?

11.30 SSSSSNAKE. Strother Martin, Dirk Benedict lead this filthy, filthy thriller made in 1973 and good on special effects, about a scientist's experiments with a sting in the tail.

1.15 FREEZE FRAME. Elvis Costello. The man, the music... 1.40 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Dr Roger Williamson. Closedown.

11.45 Kojak. 12.45 Weather: close.

Wales: As West except: 6.0-7.0 pm Wales at Six. 10.30 Keeping up with the Joneses. 11.4-11.55 Sessanne. With Strother Martin, Benedict, Heather Menzies.

South

6.15 As London. 1.20 News. 1.30 Cee-fax. 1.40 News. 1.50 Return of the Saint. 2.30 Look Who's Talking. 3.0 As London. 3.10 About Anglia. 7.0 As London. 7.30 Cross Question. 10.30 Villa Rides. 1983. Action with Yui Brynner, Robert Mitchum, Charles Bronson. 1.25 Graham Kennedy Sings: close.

Channel 4

2.30 pm Racing from Doncaster. 4.30 The People's Court. 5.0 The Addams Family. 5.30 THE TUBE. Another session of live music, interviews and videos. 7.0 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS. 7.30 RIGHT TO REPLY. Gus Macdonald invites more viewer reaction to the channel's output. 8.0 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Presented by freelance Julie Davidson. 8.15 A WEEK IN POLITICS features the new general secretary of the Labour Party, Larry Whitty. 9.0 THE COSBY SHOW: One More Time. More imported comedy. 9.30 IN SEARCH OF PARADISE: The Final Challenge. How will the garden of the future grow? Last film in the repeated series looks at the trends which are threatening urban Man's small stake in Nature.

10.0 CHEERS: Coach In Love, Part 2. Second half of the tale which finds old Coach wondering about his future.

10.30 WELL BEING SPECIAL: The Price of Tranquility? The problems presented by the minor tranquillizers like Valium have been well documented, but this report investigates the quite separate issue of the major kind. Hailed as a significant development for the treatment of serious mental disorders like schizophrenia when they were introduced in the Fifties, they are the main form of treatment used for controlling severe psychiatric symptoms — but they have disturbing, distressing and long-lasting side effects. Should we be looking harder for alternatives?

11.15 SOME CALL IT LOVING. British TV premiere for a haunting, enigmatic fantasy on the Sleeping Beauty theme, with Zalmán King as the young jazz musician who falls for a sleeping carnival exhibit and arranges to buy her, installing her with his two mistresses in a Gothic Californian mansion. With Carol White, Richard Pryor.

1.10 DADARAMA: Roads One. Another video piece by John Latham. 1.15 Closedown.

SAC: 1.0 pm Countdown. 1.30 Abbott and Costello. 2.0 Fenestrati. 2.20 5 Lon Goh. 2.35 Hyon O Fyd. 2.45 Racing from Doncaster. 3.0 The Three Stooges. 4.45 Hanner. 4.50 The Tube. 5.0 Pobel Y Cwm. 5.30 Yd yn ei Le. 5.15 Chers. 5.45 The Dismissal. 10.45 Newhart. 11.10 Book Four. 11.40 Just Like Mobians. 12.25 Divedd.

11.00 NEWS: Resolution and Independence. Poetry anthology. 1.20 Concert. 2.0 Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3 (Scottish). 2.10 Concerts by Stravinsky (1923) and Iain Hamilton (1963) first broadcast performance. Farnham Ensemble, dir. David Davies. Nielsen: Symphony No. 2 (The Four Temperaments). LSO.

2.20 Mozart and Haydn Trios. Mozart: Divertimento in B flat. Haydn: Piano Trio in E flat minor. Classical Piano Trio.

3.0 Choral Evensong recorded in Paisley Abbey. 4.55 News: Mainly for Pleasure. 5.00 Music for Guitar (David Starobin, John Anthony Lennon). Another's Fandango. Bayan Northcott. Fantasia. David del Tricler. Acoustic Song. Elliott Cardie. Changes.

7.0 The Shokachi. Music for Japanese flute (Yoshitaka Iwamoto). Ryohji Hirose. Kikurui. Frank Denyer: Winged Play of the Rainbird.

7.30 BBC Soryuri Temirkanov, Yo Yo Ma (cello). Lyadov: Baba Yaga. Dvorak: Cello Concerto. 8.0 Haydn, by Chris Miller, 4. Duty. 8.10 Concert. 8.20 Shostakovich: Symphony No. 6.

9.30 A Truce to Terror: The World's Most Impossible Job. Conversation with Kurt Waldheim, UN Secretary-General, 1972-1975. Cambridge, Strauss: An Les Baum. Daphne. Daniel Lesur: Le Cantique des Cantiques. BBC Singers, Boys of King's College Choir.

10.15 The Beethoven Piano Sonatas: Op. 49 No. 2, Op. 54, Op. 2 No. 3. Alfred Brendel. 11.57 News.

Radio 1

6.0 am Adrian John. 7.0 Mike Read. 9.0 Simon Bates. 12.0 pm Mark Page. 2.30 Paul Kennedy. 4.30 Select-A-Disc with Peter Powell. 5.30 News. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.0 Andy Peebles. 10.12 am The Friday Rock Show.

Radio 2

4.0 am Colin Berry. 6.0 Ray Moore. 8.0 Ken Bruce. 10.30 Jimmy Young. 1.15 pm David Jacobs. 2.0 Frank Hurrell. 3.30 Music all the Way. 4.0 David Hamilton. 6.0 John Dunn. 8.0 Friday Night Is Music Night. 9.15 The Organist. Entertainment. 10.0 Listen to Les. 10.30 Old Strangers. Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. 11.0 Stuart Hall. 1.0 am Peter Dickinson. 3.0 Big Band Special. 3.30-4.0 String Sound.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.0 News: Morning Concert. 9.0 News: This Week's Composers: Schuman and Thomson. Thompson: Sonata No. 4 (Percy Jacobs, harpsichord). Schuman: Concerto on Old English Rhymes (Donald McIntosh, viola, Camerata Singers, NYPO/Bernstein). 10.0 Schubert: Choral and Fugue: Scriabin: Sonata Fantasy. Noemy Belinkaya (piano). 10.40 Latham: Choral Shipway. Schubert: Five German Dances with Coda and Seven Trios: Elgar: Serenade; Kurt Atterberg: Suite No. 3 for violin, viola and strings. 11.25 Song Recital by Alison Hargan (sop.), Iain Ledingham (piano). Songs by Grieg, Faure and Joseph Marx. 12.15 Midday From: BBC PO/Dances. Peter Lawson (piano). Beethoven: Overture Leonora No. 2. Richard Rodney Bennett: Piano Concerto.

1.0 News: Resolution and Independence. Poetry anthology. 1.20 Concert. 2.0 Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3 (Scottish). 2.10 Concerts by Stravinsky (1923) and Iain Hamilton (1963) first broadcast performance. Farnham Ensemble, dir. David Davies. Nielsen: Symphony No. 2 (The Four Temperaments). LSO.

2.20 Mozart and Haydn Trios. Mozart: Divertimento in B flat. Haydn: Piano Trio in E flat minor. Classical Piano Trio.

3.0 Choral Evensong recorded in Paisley Abbey. 4.55 News: Mainly for Pleasure. 5.00 Music for Guitar (David Starobin, John Anthony Lennon). Another's Fandango. Bayan Northcott. Fantasia. David del Tricler. Acoustic Song. Elliott Cardie. Changes.

7.0 The Shokachi. Music for Japanese flute (Yoshitaka Iwamoto). Ryohji Hirose. Kikurui. Frank Denyer: Winged Play of the Rainbird.

7.30 BBC Soryuri Temirkanov, Yo Yo Ma (cello). Lyadov: Baba Yaga. Dvorak: Cello Concerto. 8.0 Haydn, by Chris Miller, 4. Duty. 8.10 Concert. 8.20 Shostakovich: Symphony No. 6.

9.30 A Truce to Terror: The World's Most Impossible Job. Conversation with Kurt Waldheim, UN Secretary-General, 1972-1975. Cambridge, Strauss: An Les Baum. Daphne. Daniel Lesur: Le Cantique des Cantiques. BBC Singers, Boys of King's College Choir.

10.15 The Beethoven Piano Sonatas: Op. 49 No. 2, Op. 54, Op. 2 No. 3. Alfred Brendel. 11.57 News.

Radio 4

5.55 Shipping Forecast. 6.0 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.15 The World Today. 6.30 News. 7.0 The World Today. 7.30 News. 7.45 The World Today. 8.0 News. 8.15 The World Today. 8.30 News. 8.45 The World Today. 9.0 News. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 News. 9.45 The World Today. 10.0 News. 10.15 The World Today. 10.30 News. 10.45 The World Today. 11.0 News. 11.15 The World Today. 11.30 News. 11.45 The World Today. 12.0 News. 12.15 The World Today. 12.30 News. 12.45 The World Today. 1.0 News. 1.15 The World Today. 1.30 News. 1.45 The World Today. 2.0 News. 2.15 The World Today. 2.30 News. 2.45 The World Today. 3.0 News. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 News. 3.45 The World Today. 4.0 News. 4.15 The World Today. 4.30 News. 4.45 The World Today. 5.0 News. 5.15 The World Today. 5.30 News. 5.45 The World Today. 6.0 News. 6.15 The World Today. 6.30 News. 6.45 The World Today. 7.0 News. 7.15 The World Today. 7.30 News. 7.45 The World Today. 8.0 News. 8.15 The World Today. 8.30 News. 8.45 The World 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Heseltine attempts to forestall criticism of ex-adviser's move

Ministry chief not to see papers on former firms

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

A former arms company executive appointed as head of procurement at the Ministry of Defence will be refused access to any papers relating to contracts involving firms he was linked with, MPs were told yesterday.

Mr Peter Levene's move from his post as special adviser to the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, to his new position as a civil servant also brought strong criticism in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Heseltine wrote to the Commons defence select committee that for 12 months no papers concerning the placing of business with the 11 companies with which Mr Levene was closely associated would cross his desk.

The biggest potential contract affected is one for armoured personnel carriers, worth £200 million for which United Scientific Holdings has bid. Mr Levene was chairman of the company until he was succeeded by Sir Frank Cooper, the former Ministry of Defence permanent under secretary.

Defence committee members leave for the US this weekend on another inquiry, but it was clear last night that they will want more information from the Defence Ministry before they decide whether they must question Mr Levene.

In the Commons, the Prime Minister strongly defended the appointment. Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic leader, told Mrs Thatcher that Mr Levene's move compromised the Civil Service's integrity.

Mrs Thatcher rejected the charge and said it was important to make Civil Service appointments from business.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, later told a press conference at Westminster: "The extent of political favouritism in this Government is obvious. It shows their arrogance."

The Prime Minister and Mr Heseltine are determined to resist calls for Mr Levene's removal from his post, for which he is paid £107,000 a year, including pension arrangements.

Mrs Thatcher said in a written answer to Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, that Mr Levene had severed all connections with his former companies and directed himself of all shares in them.

She said in another answer: "Special arrangements are being made within the MoD to ensure that Mr Levene will not be personally involved in this or any other contract award (a reference to the armoured personnel carriers) which might involve any conflict of interest with his former industrial interests."

Mr Levene is on a five-year contract at the MoD which can be terminated by either side with 12 months notice. He started work in his new post this week.

Senior opposition figures are determined to press Mr Heseltine further on the precise arrangements envisaged for the transfer of Mr Levene to the civil service and details of his arms company share holdings.

Low pay 'compromise'

Continued from page one

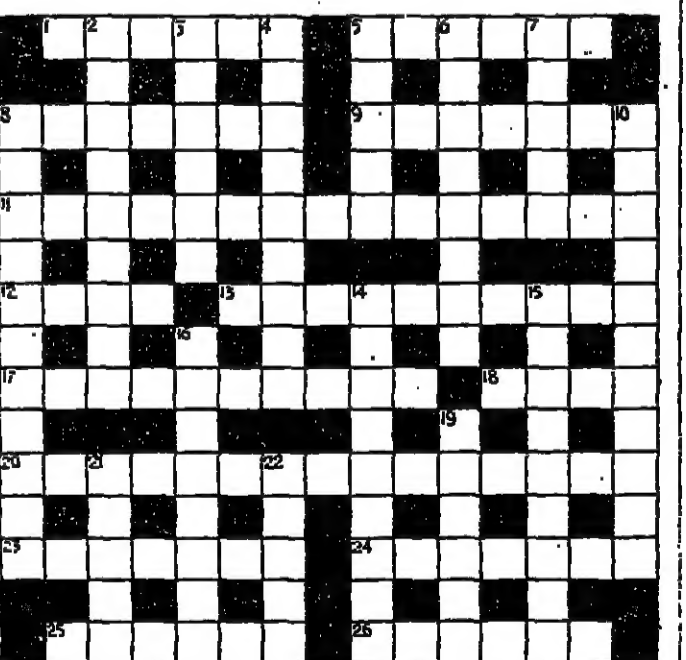
involved which would make the YTS scheme compulsory. He was less specific about the future of the wages councils — the 26 institutions established to protect the lowest-paid. Mr King announced the publication of a green paper on the subject, which will form the basis for discussion.

The green paper makes a number of unqualified declarations about wages councils, including an assertion that they interfere with the freedom of employers to offer jobs at wages which would otherwise be acceptable to people looking for work. It adds: "This restricts job opportunities, particularly for young people."

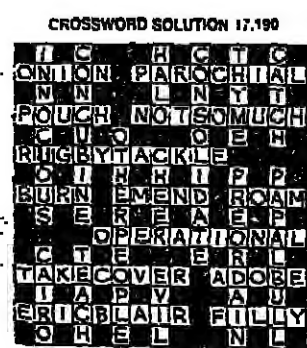
Mr King claimed in the Commons last night that the publication of this document represented the Government's attempt to ensure that the voice of the unemployed was heard.

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,191

CUSTOS



- ACROSS
- Discontinue work with hedge (3, 3)
 - Lead astray drinking rum, an easy thing to do (6)
 - Villains get out, that is hiding in Bahamas (7)
 - Deceive East German woman protected by theologian (7)
 - Shameful idolatry in scene without reward for others' feelings (15)
 - Field-marshal making soldier — shame! — retreat (4)
 - Hold Henry, the fleet's first admiral (4-6)
 - Grip tight and confine New York ward (3-5)
 - Iron poles used in marshy areas (4)
 - Longing to embrace one, the girl is improving on perfection (8, 3, 4)
- DOWN
- The French newlywed finds space to sprawl (3-4)
 - Bosom friends one acquired among old hags (7)
 - Little Edwin used to be believed (6)
 - Look round a revolutionary town in Texas (6)
 - Kidnapping sailor on channel, I'll get ahead (9)
 - Gold that is not, apart from a ring, seen in the East (6)
 - Charm used by tortured Inca in the grip of doom (8)
 - Western city to avoid (5)
 - Frustrated, one exploit being swamped by another (8)
 - Quit the field on the day of victory (5)
 - Clever child, shining apple of teacher's eye (6, 5)
 - Stop crying, making awful drone, yes? Yes (3, 4, 4)
 - Over-enthusiastic, making an act fail in variety (9)
 - Acted as agent around London district if particularly required (9)
 - Temporarily close small house in Southern Irish county (4, 4)
 - Unruly youth upset over our devotion (6)
 - Hearth fire gives one a prickling sensation when loless (5)
 - Called master in study to get up (5)



Solution tomorrow

Young jobless will have to keep on move

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is to abolish from April 29 the right of most unemployed people under the age of 26 to claim social security to pay for board and lodging in one place for more than two to eight weeks.

Regulations laid before Parliament yesterday will tell them that they can have only two weeks to find jobs in seaside towns or lose their benefit.

Outside seaside resorts young claimants will have four weeks to find jobs and in cities like London, Manchester, and Glasgow eight weeks will be allowed.

At the same time big cuts are being introduced in benefits that can be claimed for board and lodging by all unemployed people, the handicapped, and the elderly.

For the unemployed, the maximum payable in London drops from £110 a week to £70. Outside the capital the figure will be as low as £45 in some areas.

The cuts mean that single people on benefit will be able to pay a maximum of £7 a night in London to £3.40 a night for rooms in places like Penzance, Truro, and Colwyn Bay. This is because £21 a week is allowed for meals as part of the board and lodging payment.

A national limit of £70 will be imposed for young people and the unemployed in hostels — otherwise the Department of the Environment would have been forced to increase its subsidies.

A new national limit of £110 a week is being set for private homes for the elderly; £120 for the mentally ill and alcohol and drug misusers; £140 for the mentally handicapped, and £170 for the physically disabled below pension age.

A new nursing attendance allowance will allow most homes for the elderly to charge £138.60 a week, and other homes £148.60 and £168.60.

A special limit is to be introduced for people dying from cancer while claiming supplementary benefit. Homes will be able to claim £198.80 a week. These new rates compare with £295 a week being charged by some old people's homes in Leytonstone, London.

The elderly and the handicapped who are already receiving benefits above the new limits will continue to receive the same level of support until they leave homes.

The young unemployed will have between four and 13 weeks at the higher rate of board and lodging before they must leave in practice.

Young unemployed people who choose to stay on and camp on beaches in seaside resorts, or live in squats, will be able to claim supplementary benefit in the same towns, but will receive no help towards housing costs.

The changes were defended by Mr Tony Newton, the social security minister, in the face of complaints from nearly 500 organisations, including the Social Security Advisory Committee.

Mr Newton said the changes would save taxpayers £70 million and end the exploitation and abuse of young people by unscrupulous landlords.

He said the changes represented significant concessions, and exceptions for people who could prove they were pregnant, in moral danger, or handicapped meant that those at risk were safe.

The Social Security Advisory Committee said the changes "ran the risk of creating a class of rootless young people, unable to obtain permanent accommodation in one place, unable to find a job, and obliged by benefit rules to move around constantly."

Their report went on to say that the arbitrary limits imposed were particularly unfair for London, where the young and "some of the best employment opportunities in the country" were to be found.

The committee said that ministers gave them information that only 26 per cent of young people under 24 found work in four weeks.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's social services spokesman, said last night: "This Government has created the social casualties and is now punishing its victims by withholding expenditure, so that people are forced into homelessness by Government cuts are now being forced to meet the cost of homelessness themselves."

Ireland blocks Nazis return

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

THE Nazi war criminal Pieter Menten will not be allowed to return to his Irish mansion, which is believed to house much of his valuable art collection, Mr Michael Noonan, the Irish justice minister, said yesterday.

Menten, a former SS officer, now aged 85, is due to be released from prison in Holland within the next week. He has served two-thirds of a 10-year sentence for murdering Jews in Poland in 1941.

His expected return to Ireland prompted a campaign by the Jewish Representative Council, the Irish Labour Party, and individual politicians to deny him entry. They succeeded yesterday when Mr Noonan said he was making an order, under the Republic's Aliens Act, to refuse him entry.

Mr Noonan refused to elaborate, but his decision was welcomed by Jewish and other groups. There had been fears that Menten could not be excluded because of his Dutch nationality and the fact that he had established residence in Ireland.

Irish government sources said it might be open to Menten to challenge the validity of the exclusion order in the Irish courts. He is expected to have a court case pending in which he is seeking £58,000 (£58,000 sterling) in compensation for an arson attack on his Irish home in 1978.

Menten moved to Ireland in 1984, when he bought Comeragh House at Loughbeg, County Waterford. Some 10 years later he had warlike activities in Poland came to light, and he was tried and convicted in Holland.

He is reputed to be a millionaire, and his fortune and art collection are said to have been founded on wartime plunder. An attempt by a Polish-American to prove his family's ownership of some of Menten's paintings failed in the Irish courts several years ago.

Much of the art collection is believed to be stored in a reinforced cellar at Comeragh House, which is equipped with steel shutters and burglar alarms and has survived two attempts to burn it down.

Dr Ephraim Mirvis, the newly appointed Chief Rabbi of Ireland, said last night that the exclusion order appeared to be said to have paid his debt to society like any other criminal.

Menten's Dutch lawyer last night said that the exclusion order appeared to be said to have paid his debt to society like any other criminal.

He had talked of coming to Ireland, but said, but "he can't make up his mind. He realises that mean going back to prison and it takes a lot of courage to take that decision."

Yesterday afternoon, Baigrie was offered a drink but refused it. A resident who had earlier tried to take him a cup of tea was told by a police officer that the point was "to starve him out."

Mr P. W. Botha, the South African President, was in London yesterday to meet the British Council of Churches and the South African Government. Mr P. W. Botha, the South African President, was in London yesterday to meet the British Council of Churches and the South African Government.

Mr Donald Anderson, Labour's front bench spokesman on foreign affairs, said in a statement: "We call upon the Government to strongly protest against this unjust repression and to bring pressure to bear on the South African Government to fundamentally change their policies."

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South African police in riot helmets riding through Sharpsville yesterday, patrolling the town whose name is synonymous with apartheid police violence

S. Africa police 'kill more than 40' during funeral procession

Continued from page one

People were screaming and running past the butchery. A woman came crying to me and said her son and daughter were dead."

Mr Mono Badela, a local correspondent of a Johannesburg Sunday newspaper, the City Press, arrived on the scene shortly after the clash and said a fire truck was used to wash the blood from the street.

He said the shooting took place within Langa, about a mile from the border of Uitenhage.

The shootings came on the first day of a two-day protest strike in Uitenhage, a centre of South Africa's motor industry. News reports said the stay-away had been almost completely successful, hitting local plants which include Volkswagen and the Goodyear tyre company. The strike was called in part to protest at restrictions on funerals for riot victims.

In Washington yesterday, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, condemned the shooting while testifying before a House appropriations sub-committee.

But he said the US had no plans to change its policy towards South Africa. It would be counter-productive for the US to "throw up its hands" and end its economic and diplomatic involvement in the country.

"We can have an impact if we stay there and say what we believe," he said. "On the whole we believe the black population there appreciates our efforts."

The African National Congress — the black political organisation banned by the South African Government — said in a statement from Lusaka the yesterday's killings were proof that Pretoria remained as "murderous" as it was 25 years ago.

"It is also clear that this regime continues to entertain the mistaken belief that the unbridled use of violence against the people will ensure its permanent survival," it said.

It appealed to the international community to isolate the South African Government through an oil embargo and comprehensive economic sanctions.

The British Council of Churches yesterday protested to the South African President, Mr P. W. Botha, about the shootings. "We mourn the death of today's victims of police terror and beg you in the name of Christ to bring apartheid to an end," the Council said.

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Shorts trainer wins RAF deal with low price

By David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

The RAF's new basic trainer will be Brazilian-designed and built by Shorts Brothers of Belfast under a £125 million contract awarded in the Commons yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary.

He said that cost was the "decisive factor" in a hard-fought competition, which most outside observers had expected the British Aerospace aircraft to win.

Both the Embraer Tucano and the Hunting Firecracker and the Australian AC-20 sponsored by Westland, were eliminated at an early stage in the RAF competition.

At that point, special pleading for jobs in Northern Ireland was widely seen as the Tucano's main asset since the RAF was reported to favour originally allowed for the new trainer programme in its long term costs.

In Belfast, the news was greeted with jubilation by Sir Philip Foreman, Shorts' chief executive. "It is great to be David's 'Golden Goose'," he said, and dismissed as "a load of rubbish" suggestions by disappointed MPs representing and that a commercial partner-BAE that his company had been given the order only to export potential.

The Tucano is already in service with the Brazilian Air Force and will be re-engineered for the RAF with the American Garrett TPE-331 turbo-prop, substantially built by Rolls Royce. This will give it a top speed in level flight of 280 knots.

His words were echoed by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Northern Ireland Secretary. "Shorts have won on merit without any favours and without any special pleading." Their success shows "what Northern Ireland can do," he said.

The Government is proposing sweeping powers to control spending by the Greater London Council and metropolitan counties in their final year before abolition on March 31, 1986.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Local Government Minister, announced yesterday that all their property transactions and contracts worth more than £15,000 would be subject to ministerial veto.

The Abolition Bill will be amended to enforce these arrangements retrospectively, with effect from today.

The Department of the Environment said that ministers did not intend to make judgments about the desirability of individual spending projects in the coming financial year.

Their purpose was to prevent the councils organising "life after death" by entering into binding arrangements to spend money, which successor authorities would be obliged to honour.

Ministers are also afraid of the loss of the GLC leader, Mr Ken Livingstone, that he will create a "GLC in exile" by channelling resources to voluntary groups which will be able to thrive after the council has been abolished.

The powers will be taken retrospectively and will replace measures which make councils submit contracts worth more than £100,000.

The department intends to increase its counter-obstruction unit from 10 to perhaps as many as 14 to handle contracts worth hundreds of millions of pounds over the year.

The new powers will also affect the inner London Education Authority, which buys its supplies through the GLC, but the Government says the authority will be able to avoid undue bureaucracy by seeking general consent for some categories of spending.

Mr Livingstone said the measures were "bolting the stable door after the horse has already disappeared into the distance."

The GLC had put through all its important contracts last July, and officials were working to complete any final details of the campaign against abolition before the midnight deadline, he said yesterday.

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THE WEATHER

Cold with showers

A DEPRESSION will become slow moving over Central England.

London, SE, and SW England, E. Am. Mild, showers or heavy rain. Wind W. 10-15 mph. Cold, moderate temperatures 5-7°C (41-45°F). E. Mild, showers or heavy rain. Wind W. 10-15 mph. Cold, moderate temperatures 5-7°C (41-45°F). E. Mild, showers or heavy rain. Wind W. 10-15 mph. Cold, moderate temperatures 5-7°C (41-45°F).

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